

## Mr Healey ponders as five ministers join leadership race

Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, still hesitated yesterday, Wedgwood Benn, one of the candidates firmly in the field for Labour leadership election, in his "manifesto". It urged

a return to full employment, import curbs, open government and more industrial democracy. The other four candidates so far are Mr Callaghan, still favourite, Mr Foot, Mr Jenkins, and Mr Crosland.

## Mr Benn issues 'manifesto'

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for the Environment, issued his "manifesto" yesterday, outlining his proposals for Labour government.

Mr Benn's manifesto, which was distributed to members of the Labour Party, set out his views on a range of issues, including the economy, the environment, and social services.

He called for a "new deal" for the working class, and for a "new deal" for the environment. He also called for a "new deal" for the education system.

Mr Benn's manifesto was widely welcomed by Labour supporters, who saw it as a clear statement of his intentions for Labour government.

He also called for a "new deal" for the health service, and for a "new deal" for the housing market.

Mr Benn's manifesto was a key document in the Labour leadership election, and it was widely expected that it would influence the outcome.

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## Threat to Thorpe leadership is postponed

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

Mr Jeremy Thorpe will not be challenged for the leadership of the Liberal Party until the autumn at the earliest. Those Liberal MPs who believed he ought to resign or wanted an early election backed away from their case at a meeting of the Parliamentary Liberal Party last night.

The reasons for such an unexpected change were not all immediately apparent, but a key factor is thought to have been the position adopted by Mr Grimond, Mr Thorpe's predecessor as leader.

Opinion had been building up among Liberal MPs that if Mr Thorpe would resign Mr Grimond should be elected to his place. That formula would have been widely accepted inside the party and would have allowed Mr Thorpe to relinquish the leadership with dignity.

But Mr Thorpe told Mr David Steel, one of the leading supporters of the proposal, that he was not prepared to stand down. Such a move, he said, would appear to be an admission of guilt. Further, it was wrong for the Liberal Party to panic.

Two MPs involved in Mr Steel's proposal were Mr John Pardon and Mr Rymlyn Hosson, both of whom have declared themselves contenders for the leadership. They had said, however, that they would not challenge Mr Grimond if he could be persuaded to stand.

Mr Grimond told them that he had no intention of seeking the leadership while Mr Thorpe remained. So, having agreed earlier to fight in an early election for the leadership, Mr Thorpe no longer faces that prospect. The party's constitutional committee will continue to draft proposals for a new method for selecting a leader. Its plan will have to be ratified at the Liberal Assembly in the autumn.

Although the effect of the proposals will be to turn the assembly into an American-style convention, a change of that kind may also give Mr Thorpe the chance of regaining some of the popularity he may have lost in recent weeks.

That loss may not in any case be as great as sometimes supposed. Many party activists have told officials that they still fully support Mr Thorpe.

A group of Liberal candidates in marginal seats issued a statement last night saying that they were not minded to let Mr Thorpe resign. They said that they were not minded to let Mr Thorpe resign.

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Mrs Anne Armstrong, the American Ambassador, going yesterday to present her letters of credence to the Queen, with the Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps.

## Commission urges aid for Fleet Street soon

By a Staff Reporter

An immediate infusion of up to £55m is necessary to help national newspapers to overcome their chronic financial difficulties, the Royal Commission on the Press recommended in an interim report published yesterday.

They recommend that assistance should be drawn as far as possible from the private sector, and in particular from the insurance industry (PFI), which provides medium-term loans to newspapers.

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, told the House of Commons that the Government agreed with the commission that a general subsidy was unnecessary and unjustified.

He added: "We shall be inviting the Fleet Street Committee (the joint granting committee representing newspaper proprietors and the Press Association) to meet and discuss the commission's proposals in the near future."

The commission has been assured by PFI that loans would be available to newspapers which could meet their requirements for borrowing. However, the commission accepts that some newspapers will not be able to meet PFI's requirements.

It recommends that in such cases, if need is proved, the Government should grant loans under the Industry Act, 1972.

## Palace is silent on Princess

By a Staff Reporter

Buckingham Palace maintained a discreet silence yesterday amid growing speculation that the Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon may separate.

After Tuesday night's statement that the situation had been discussed by the Royal Family, Sir Martin Charteris, the Queen's private secretary, said yesterday: "There will be no statement today."

The Queen was present yesterday at a regular meeting of the Privy Council, arranged more than two months ago.

Prime Minister: The Queen has talked with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Cogan, about the possible separation, an Anglican church spokesman said yesterday.

The Archbishop, in Barbados on his way to a meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, continued later that he had talked with the palace. It was stated that the Queen talked with him on the telephone on Tuesday night.

Separation likely, page 6

## Central banks fight to avert break up of European 'snake'

By Melvyn Westlake Economics Staff

Intense and unremitting pressure brought the European currency block near to disintegration on the Continental money market yesterday.

Heavy selling of the Dutch, Belgian, Danish and Norwegian currencies and buying of the Deutsche mark forced central banks to intervene on a large scale in a desperate attempt to preserve the European currency "snake".

Outside the "snake", the lira suffered a decline unprecedented in modern history. At one stage it plunged 5 per cent. It has now been devalued to the market place by 27 per cent since the Italian government was first forced to close the local currency markets in mid-January.

Local currency dealers said that the Rome monetary authorities appeared to be near a state of panic.

There was mounting concern that the lira's fall could undermine the draconian package of measures that Italian ministers were attempting to hammer out. The currency's fall coincided with figures showing a large balance of payments deficit for January and widespread fears that any attempt to impose harsh wage controls in Italy would meet powerful political resistance.

There are now 880,680 at the beginning of the year; the comparative figures for the pound are 1,690 and 1,384.

The French franc, which was withdrawn from the European currency block in the early hours of Monday morning, was weakened. But sterling was largely left on the sidelines.

With only light support from the Bank of England it rose against the dollar by 0.90 US cents, to close at \$192.30. The Swiss franc, which although outside the "snake", along with the Deutsche mark, was

the traditionally strong European currencies, was driven sharply upwards.

In the Hague a spokesman for the Dutch finance ministry last night denied rumours that the "snake" had broken up.

The denial came after all the weaker currencies within the European currency block had broken out of the statutory margins within which participating governments are obliged to operate. This happened as Continental central banks withdrew from the market at the end of the day's formal trading.

In late trading only the Deutsche mark and the Swedish crown remained within the specified margins, provoking one currency dealer to refer to the "death rattle of the snake". There are formally still seven currencies participating.

In a desperate attempt to prop up their ailing currencies both Denmark and Belgium yesterday raised their bank rates by one full percentage point.

It is believed that the Belgium central bank has spent about a quarter of the country's immediately available foreign currency reserves in the past few days. Much of this money has flowed into Frankfurt.

The West German federal bank is believed to have provided DM500m support for weaker currencies yesterday bringing the total this week to DM2,500m.

This support had to be given in spite of doubts that the foreign exchanges would be closed today or that the Deutsche mark would be revalued upwards.

To Bonn Dr Armin Gruenewald, a government spokesman, said that there was no economic justification for such a revaluation. Speculation on this effect was based on a misinterpretation of Germany's offer on Sunday night, made in order to keep France within the "snake". This offer was now closed.

## Mr Ford now seems sure party nomination

By Fred Emery

Mr Ford and Mr Jimmy Carter have both won decisive victories in the New Hampshire primary held yesterday. Mr Ford's victory was a surprise, as he was not expected to win.

His Republican challenger, Mr Ronald Reagan, still said he was still doing well, but that his fight was a losing one.

Mr Jimmy Carter, who was not howled against his most serious contender, Senator Jackson and Representative Morris Udall. But he showed himself as the firm front runner. Two to one, once in a

southern state, and now with the blue collar vote of an industrial state, he has defeated Governor George Wallace of Alabama, whose defiance carries declining conviction.

Both winners had been expected to win by a great margin, but Mr Ford's victory was a surprise. With a rather lower than average turnout, Mr Ford's was his best result this year. So was Mr Carter's and Mr Carter did especially well in the separate elections for convention delegates.

In campaign terms, Mr Carter is now looking to his contests with Senator Henry Jackson on April 6 in New York, where Mr Jackson is supposedly far ahead of him in organization and against Representative Morris Udall in Wisconsin on the same day.

There were predictable casualties in Illinois. Mr Kennedy brother-in-law, came third with 16 per cent, and bowed out with good grace.

## Chancellor says new pay limit is vital

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, emphasized the paramount importance to the economy of a further pact with the unions on pay rise limits at a Parliamentary Labour Party meeting. It was called for him to hear MPs' views on what the Budget should contain.

He said that the Budget was his judgment of the inflation rate over the next 18 months. That rate depended on the pay limit to be set by the TUC in the summer.

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## No Liberal link with man on gun charge

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

A police officer giving evidence in the trial of Andrew Newton, who is charged with possessing a pistol with intent to endanger life, said that no link between Mr Newton and the Liberal Party, or Mr Jeremy Thorpe, had been found.

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## Petrol price war ending

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

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## Boy shot in Israel

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

Tension was mounting on the West Bank last night as hospital doctors fought to save the life of an Arab boy shot in the head during a clash at Bethany between Israeli soldiers and schoolchildren throwing stones. There were other incidents elsewhere in Israel.

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## Britain to reinforce flanks of Nato

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

British reinforcements for the flanks of Nato were announced in the Defence White Paper. They will involve the Royal Marine Commandos in northern Norway, and both the Army and RAF in Italy. The White Paper sounds a warning about the growing imbalance of forces in favour of the Warsaw Pact countries.

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## Fly the flag and make the most of Italy

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

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## Wo die in bomb attack

By Christopher Walker

At least 10 people were killed and 200 injured in a bomb attack on a crowded Roman Catholic bar in the town of Dungannon, Co. Co. The attack took place as St. Patrick's Day celebrations were in full swing at the Hill of Ebor, about 100 yards out-

## Concorde challenge

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

British Airways and Air France plan to begin regular Concorde flights to and from Washington on May 24. They will challenge the ban on supersonic services to New York, imposed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, in the American courts.

## Italian watershed

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

The governing Christian Democrats of Italy today begin their most crucial national congress since the war. With prestige reduced by a wave of scandals, they face an array of economic problems as well as a growing Communist challenge.

## Visconti dies in Rome

By Michael Hatfield Political Staff

The Italian director, Luchino Visconti, died at his home in Rome, aged 69. He had been suffering from influenza. Among Visconti's best-known films was *Death in Venice*, based on a story by Thomas Mann.

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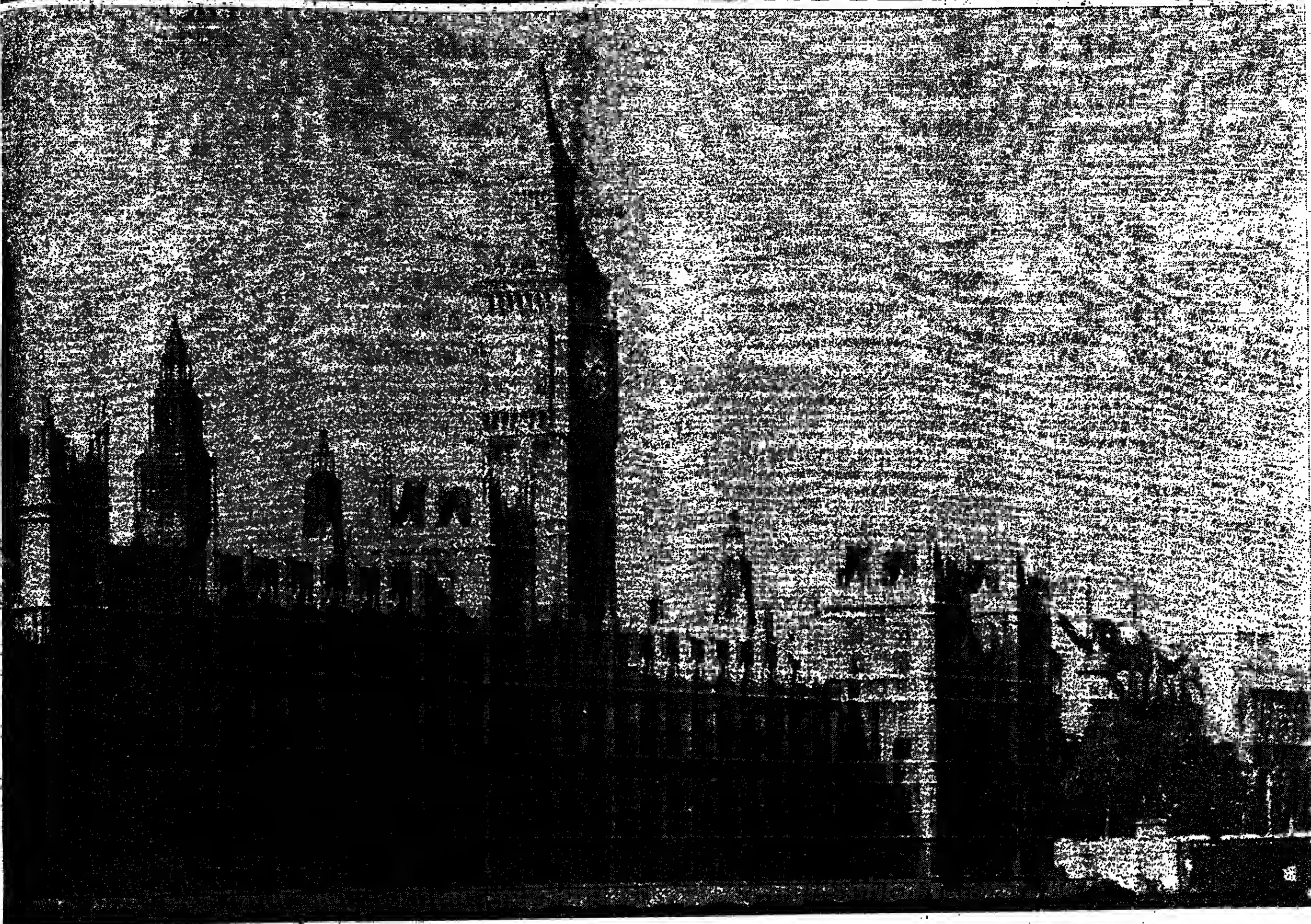
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From March 23rd there will be five flights a day every weekday, plus a new service from Glasgow and Newcastle to Amsterdam (in association with KLM). And British Caledonian offer bigger fare savings on many flights within the U.K.

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From March 23rd there will be an additional flight to Nigeria - British Caledonian now fly there every day of the week. British Caledonian is the only British scheduled airline flying to Nigeria, (in association with Nigeria Airways).

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## HOME NEWS

## Institute bans public showings for juvenile crime film on ground of parents' reservations

Penny Symon

The governors of the British Film Institute have decided at the controversial documentary, *Juvenile Liaison*, which includes a scene showing a seven-year-old boy being questioned in a police cell, would not be allowed a public showing.

The film was made by Mr Nicholas Broomfield and Miss Anne Churchill with £15,000 provided by the institute, and covers the police juvenile liaison scheme, which enables officers to caution young offenders, many aged seven or eight, rather than take them to court.

It was shot in Blackburn, Lancashire, and the filmmakers received cooperation from the police and the families involved. They maintain that no undertaking was given that the film would not get a public showing, and scenes involving those families who object to that possibility are cut.

Although the police did not object at the time, they began to put pressure on the institute to forbid its showing at the London Film Festival last September. Chief Supt Joseph Jones, of Lancashire CID, tried to stop that showing.

In a statement the institute's

governors said yesterday that they could not permit a wide showing. "We are not satisfied that we have adequate consents in the case of a film concerning young children appearing in this film. We are exploring methods of responding to possible requests to show this film to specialist groups with an interest in the subject matter."

Mr Broomfield said he was very sad that the governors had not backed the film, and repeated his assurance that he and Miss Churchill had obtained the necessary consents for the film's possible showing on television from families involved.

An offer for the film was made by Thames Television, and the families were informed. Those who objected were cut from the film and an undertaking was given not to show the film around Blackburn.

"We got agreement from the families, and the governors have waited till now, three or four months later, to make this decision," he said. "There has been a delay, and the police have now gathered statements from the families which conflict with ours."

Mr Barrie Gavin, who as head of production at the institute was responsible for *Juvenile Liaison*, said he was

very unhappy at the decision. "I am in favour of the film. I think it is magnificent, and I am very disturbed at the vague wording about 'specialist groups' in the governors' statement."

Mr Gavin said most of the money for the film came from the Department of Education and Science. The public had a right to see a film made with public money and the filmmakers a right to examine the institutions by which we were governed and ask questions about those institutions.

He added that at no time was he under the impression that *Juvenile Liaison* was a private film. No undertaking was ever given that it would not be shown, and it would be wrong to have spent the money on such an exercise.

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, said he was disturbed at the issues the film raised about the juvenile liaison scheme. He had tabled questions asking the Home Secretary for an urgent review of the scheme, a report from the Chief Constable of Lancashire on specific instances in the film, and on what legal authority children aged seven were taken to and interrogated in police cells.

## Metrication in food 'a threat to pay policy'

A call for a Government assurance that compulsory powers to adopt metric weights for food will not be used until inflation has been brought under control was made yesterday by the National Consumer Council.

The council, established by the Government last May to identify and represent the interests of consumers, said that shoppers were confused by rising prices, and metrication would be too much to cope with.

Mr Michael Young, chairman of the council, said: "A short, sharp changeover to metric could mean a short, sharp end to the pay policy."

The council believes that the Government's last May to identify and represent the interests of consumers, said that shoppers were confused by rising prices, and metrication would be too much to cope with.

While conversion could not be brought to bear on weight-out foods for some years, because the necessary metric scales and measures had yet to be manufactured, the cost and upheaval of the process would be so great that it posed the question whether that particular changeover was necessary.

Britain's EEC membership

does not mean that food has to be in metric units, at least for some years, the council says.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who has recovered from influenza, photographed after presenting St Patrick's Day shamrock to the Irish Guards at Pirbright, Surrey, yesterday.

## In brief

## Prisoners found hanged in cells

Two prisoners have been found hanged in their cells in Walton Jail, Liverpool. The Home Office said last night that the incidents were not connected.

Anthony Myles, aged 20, was found on Tuesday. Edmund Riggs, aged 37, was found yesterday. They were both serving sentences for burglary.

## Solicitor reinstated

Thomas Derek Hildcraft, a solicitor of Grand Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, who was struck off the roll in 1970 for breaching accounts rules and unbecoming conduct, had his name restored to the roll yesterday.

## Widow murder charge

Robert William Alexander Behnam, aged 21, of King's Hill Road, Swindon and Natalie Grosato, aged 18, of Beatrice Street, Swindon, both unemployed, were remanded in custody until March 26 by a special court yesterday at Wiltney, Oxfordshire, accused of murdering Mrs Agnes Sheffield, a widow, aged 65, at her home near Witney.

## Help for disabled

A new organization to press for better services for disabled Scots was launched in Edinburgh yesterday. It is called the Scottish Council on Disability.

## School with no building urged for reluctant pupils

Our Education Correspondent

Public buildings like museums, stations and police headquarters should be used in the location of children a teacher signs in a book published last year on disruptive and difficult pupils.

Mr Gerald Haigh, deputy headmaster of Canon Maggs Middle School in Bedworth, Warwickshire, suggests that children should follow the Parkway experiment started in Philadelphia in 1971. Mr Haigh, aged 39, has taught in six schools and is well-known as an educational writer.

The Philadelphia school uses the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, where most of a public buildings are, as a "city college" for about 800 high school students. The curriculum is designed to make use of the city, and half the tricular activities are by juniors rather than teachers. A course in architecture is run by a local architect in offices. Students gain social

studies credits for helping mentally handicapped children. Tutorial groups are held in hospitals and church halls. There is no official school building.

Mr Haigh proposes initially one unit of 100 pupils, aged between 11 and 16, chosen for their reluctance towards school by local head teachers with parents' approval. They could have 10 teachers as money would be saved on a school building.

Mr Haigh proposes a "unit room" which could be spare office in any municipal building or a caravan; and nine tutor bases in the town library, council offices, university, fire station and police headquarters.

He proposes history lessons in the town museum and biology lessons in hospitals with nurses and doctors contributing. *The Reluctant Adolescent*, by Gerald Haigh (Metcalf Temple Smith Ltd, 37 Great Russell St, London WC1 3PP; £3.50).

## BBC programme on drug prices 'unfair'

By a Staff Reporter

The BBC Complaints Commission has upheld a complaint by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) against a *Nation* magazine "Consumer Unit" programme on January 14, 1975, about National Health Service pharmaceutical costs.

It ruled that the programme on drug prices was unfair, derogatory and damaging to the British pharmaceutical industry, and suggested that the production of further programmes giving a balanced presentation of the facts and the differing points of view might provide a remedy.

The Commission members, whose adjudication will be published in *The Listener* today, are: Sir Edmund Compton, chairman of the English Local Government Boundary Commission; Sir Henry Fisher, director of J Henry Schroder Wagg and Co; and Lady Savory, chairman of the Commission for Local Administration.

## Jail for 'idler' on £54 a week welfare pay

Leslie Lister, aged 43, of Fitzmaurice Road, Sheffield, was sent to prison for six months by the city's Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr John Henham, yesterday on three charges of persistently failing to maintain himself, his wife, Maureen, and six of his children.

The court was told he had done six weeks' work in 10 years, be refused jobs, and be had been overpaid £2,700 in two years because of his "bonedleness".

Mr Lister, who pleaded not guilty, said he had been drawing £45.30 state benefit and £9 a week family allowance.

Mr Basil Corcos, prosecuting for the Department of Health and Social Security, said Mr Lister was out of work of his own volition.

Mr Michael Wass, personnel manager of Bedford Steele Ltd, Sheffield, said he offered Mr Lister work at £40 for a 40-hour

week plus overtime, but it was declined.

Mr Douglas Baxendale, manager at Woodhouse rehabilitation centre, said Mr Lister attended a course on 14 out of 39 days, and six of those were on Thursdays when supplementary benefit was paid.

He refused a job at between £47 and £60 a week, saying he had varicose veins, but refused to be medically examined.

Mr Lister said he had nice children at home, one of whom was working. He could not manage with less money unless he cut down on food, and could do only light work as he had no skills.

Mr Kevin Robison, for the defence, submitted that if Mr Lister took employment he could be only a light job at about £35 a week and he would be guilty of neglecting to maintain his family.

## Drivers using bus lanes may be fined

By Our Labour Staff

The Civil Service Union has accused the Home Office of "giving little thought" to the practical difficulties of proposed legislation which would enable traffic wardens to flag down cars using bus lanes. During

talks at the Home Office, union officials have raised the question of where vehicles should be stopped while fixed-fine tickets are being issued.

The Home Office has suggested that the union is being "unduly alarmist" and says the wardens will be trained for the new responsibility.

Traffic wardens already have the power to report cars they see using bus lanes. The Home Office was unable to say yesterday when the proposed new

## Low paid 'markedly worse off despite £6 rise'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Most of the low paid, particularly families with children, were markedly worse off last year although many of them received the full £6 a week increase under the Government's pay policy.

Their higher wages were eroded by higher tax and national insurance contributions, by the loss of some welfare benefits and by higher prices for essentials.

Those are the main conclusions of the third annual poverty report, edited by Professor Peter Willmott, co-director of the Institute of Community Studies.

The report has been sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with pleas that the next round of wages policy should be based on flat-rate limits, together with

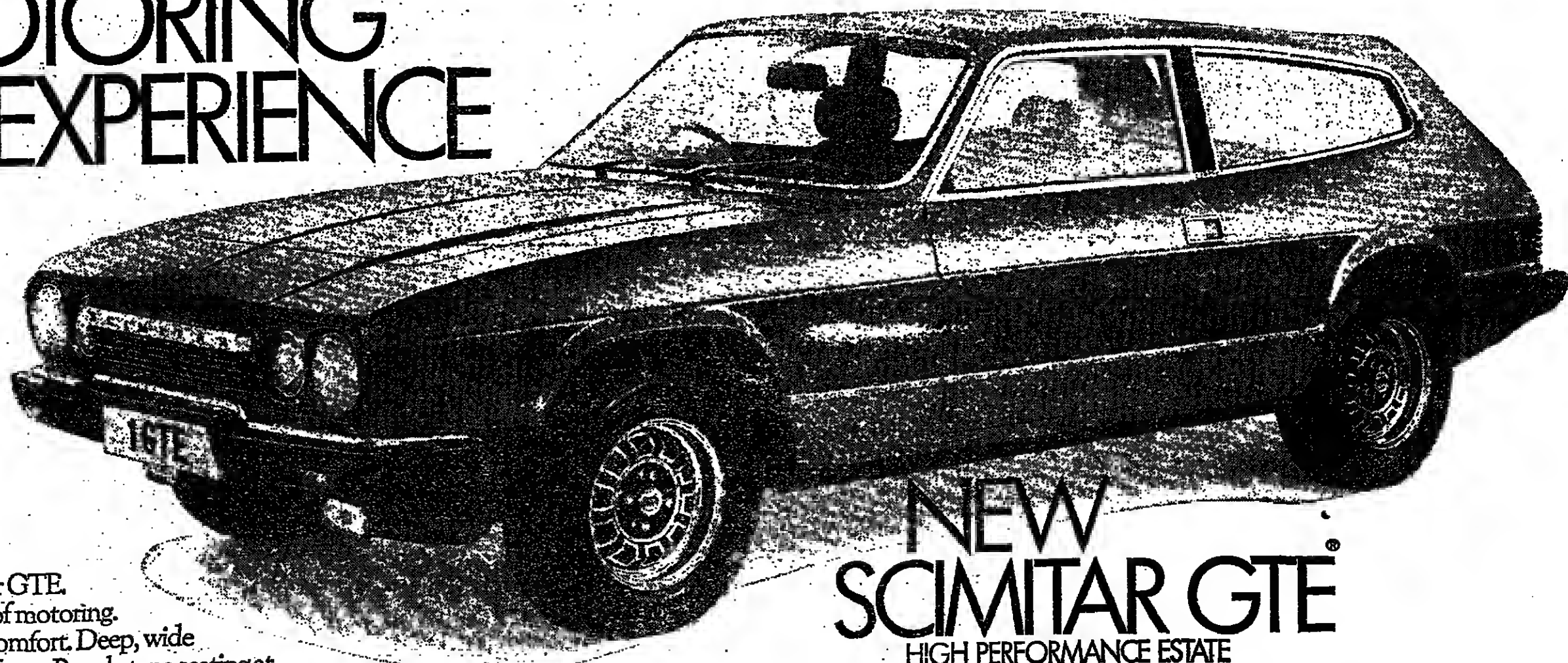
security systems to protect the worst off.

The report says that while counter-inflation policies have been designed to harm the poor least, many of them are worse off. Even though many low-paid workers received the full £6 increase, there were still many earning less than £50 a week.

But the 1975 Budget increased taxes in real terms for low-paid workers, treating them more harshly than the better off. When changes in taxes and eligibility for benefits such as rent and rate rebates, school meals and family income supplement were taken into account a low-paid family with four children had a drop of nine per cent in the standard of living between October, 1974, and October, 1975.

*Sharing Inflation? Poverty Report 1976*, edited by Peter Willmott. (Aldine, 222, Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LP; £2.50).

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performance with a top speed approaching 120mph. And miserly in consumption, 22-28 m.p.g. overall is normal. Careful driving can give you more. Only one thing left to do: experience it.

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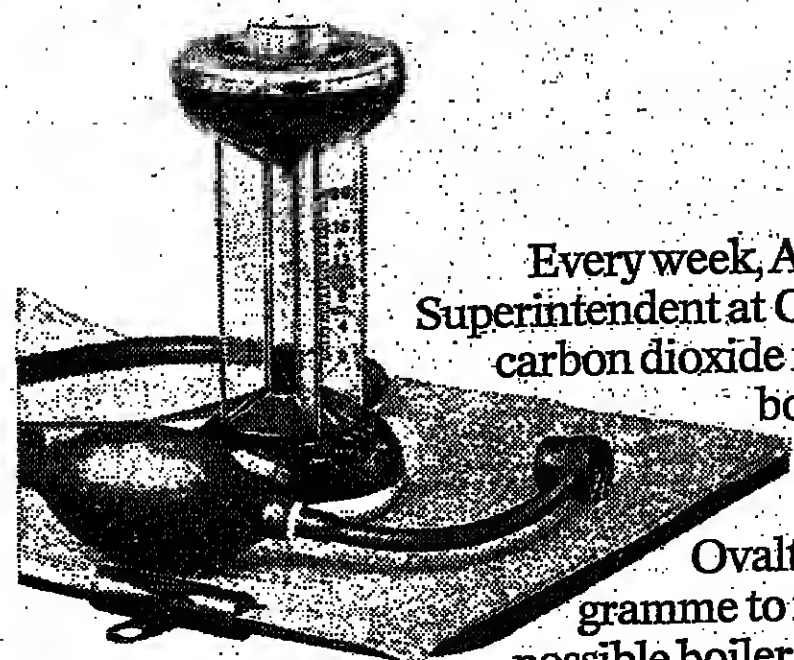








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NEW BOOKLET



PARLIAMENT, March 17, 1976

## Assurance that major part of railways will be preserved

House of Commons

Integration of coordination of the different parts of the transport system would play the central part of the consultative document on transport policy which he hoped to issue next month, stated Mr. Anthony Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment. He added that he hoped to make an announcement before long about a successor to Sir Richard Marsh, chairman of British Rail.

Mr. Crosland (Grimsby, Lab.), questioned about meetings with Sir Richard Marsh, said he had met him at the beginning of this week when Sir Richard advised him that he did not wish to be reappointed when his present term of office expired in September.

I am sure that the House will join me (the hon. member) in saying tribute to the unstinting efforts of Sir Richard Marsh to promote the interests of the railways and railwaymen in what has been a difficult period for them.

His knowledge and experience will of course be available during the critical period ahead and consultations about the future development of transport policy.

Mr. Toby Jessel (Richmond upon Thames, Twickenham, C.)—Why have the Government allowed Sir Richard Marsh to resign? Why have they not increased fares in such a way that commuters have to pay 17 per cent more against 10 per cent for inter-city fares? From Hampton to Waterloo the journey time has doubled from 23 to 52 since the Government have been in office.

Mr. Crosland—On average the commuter passenger gets the same subsidy as any other passenger. The reason for the increase in fares is that the Government have set British Rail certain short-term financial targets and in order to meet these it is for British Rail, not the Government, to decide whether fare increases will produce a net increase in revenue.

Mr. Douglas Crawford (Perth and East Perthshire, Scot. Nat.)—Would he give a categorical assurance that the answer is "Yes".

There will be no cutbacks in the railway network in Scotland?

Mr. Crosland—I have made it clear on innumerable occasions in this House that suggestions made and illustrated by a map of rail-ways cuts are without foundation. I cannot guarantee that every single line of the whole country will remain for the whole of eternity, but I can give an absolute assurance that the major part of our existing railway network will be preserved.

Mr. Gordon Ragsir (Sunderland, South-East, Lab.)—Will he discount the reports on Sir Richard Marsh's resignation that one of the reasons was that he had had a foresight of what the review was saying and he disliked the fact that the railways were going to be knocked to pieces by Mr. Crosland? Will he confirm or deny that?

Mr. Crosland—I do not like to speak on behalf of Sir Richard Marsh but he would not object if I said that this was not his reason for leaving.

This reason was that he felt under successive Governments—and he directed his criticism more at the previous Government than this one—that the railways had not been given sufficiently clear objectives and that he did not want to continue for a further term.

I think that that criticism, which will give full backing to whoever becomes the new chairman in a determined drive for financial and managerial discipline in the railways.

Mr. Crosland—On the last part the answer is "Yes".

## Rejection of Bill on private coal mines

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury, C.) was re-elected by 305 votes to 154—majority against 51—to introduce the Coal Industry (Amendment) Bill to amend the law relating to the licensing of privately owned coal mines.

He said only about 1,600 people worked in private mines. Powers to license these mines would be given to the National Coal Board, a curious idea, he thought, that a competitor should be made to issue the licences. The board also had the power to charge rent for royalties on coal worked by private mines, to alter or revoke the licences, to impose conditions upon any licence, and so to order the closure of any mine.

The Bill would provide that the power to license these mines was with the Government, who would refuse a licence on the grounds of safety or health in the mine, or on the grounds of preventing or frustrating competition.

Customers of the coal industry would benefit from alternative sources of supply.

The wages in the industry were determined on politics with the National Union of Mineworkers becoming the dominant force in the industry. (Labour protest.) Under his Bill, miners would be able to double or triple their wages by their own efforts.

Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab.)—Bidding leave to introduce the Bill, said Mr. Ridley came from a coal-mining family before the mines were nationalized. He said he was not concerned with profit making.

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## Government rule out general subsidy for national papers asked to estimate cost of bringing in new met

The Government have ruled out any general subsidy for the national newspaper industry. Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, said in a statement on the report of the Royal Commission on the Press.

Mr. Shore said: The Government asked the royal commission last September for a report in view of the urgent problem facing the industry in recent months management and unions have been working together to reach a comprehensive agreement on a modern management structure and a new report considers that the rapid collective implementation of such an agreement is essential.

The Government recognize the importance of such a coordinated approach. To achieve the breakthrough needed, a substantial expenditure will be involved over a period of about four years. It will mean major capital investment in new equipment and financing the costs of redundancy and following consequent demands for new jobs.

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the specific compensatory payments to be associated with them. Although the intention is that these will be applied on a standard basis throughout Fleet Street, it will still be necessary for each house to work out their agreed consequential in respect of their individual positions which vary widely.

The key to the royal commission's proposals is that any individual house participating in this collective scheme should be able, within a relatively short time, to finance their costs out of their savings. This means that a high proportion of them should be able to secure necessary loan finance from the private sector.

They add that there may be cases where a house could achieve these valuable off-setting economies in the short term but meanwhile had difficulties in meeting the normal commercial requirements.

The royal commission propose that such loans should be made available from public sources. The Government recognize that Fleet Street now has an opportunity of taking bold collective action to deal with their central problems. These are, however, a number of important issues for decision, particularly in the present economic climate, all considered will need further estimates of the costs and savings involved.

We shall be inviting the Fleet Street committee to tell us by the end of June what specific steps they would like to see taken. They are agreed upon and by the end of July we shall ask individual houses to submit their own figures of the consequential in terms of costs and savings for their own positions.

One subject with such basic arithmetic, the Government will consider urgently and constructively what rule they could most usefully be penalized by the help of the others.

Mr. Terence Higgins, Opposition spokesman on trade (Worthing, C.)—The Opposition regard a "strong" diversified, free press as a vital part of our democracy. We take the view that this is far excellence not an industry in which a general Government should be involved. It is an industry where technological advance and

the potential for its exploitation is essential. We need to ensure that restrictive practices do not create a higher and higher monopoly pay with a smaller and smaller market.

The proposals in the report suggest that certain carrots should be given to the industry. The right approach is to proceed, if possible, by consensus. The House should have an opportunity of debating the matter and in particular whether there is a need for assistance of the kind referred to.

Information on the question of cross subsidization of advertising revenue and the position of the economics of the provincial press should be made available before we reach a firm decision on the interim report.

Mr. Shore—We are all concerned to preserve a strong, free and diversified press. I can assure Mr. Higgins that we stand by what we have said, and which the royal commission emphasize, that we would be opposed to any general Government subsidy to the press.

I would not wish to go beyond my statement in considering any of the more detailed proposals put by the royal commission, whether in the majority report of the minority addendum.

At the right time we shall consider urgently and constructively what rule the Government can play. There is a great deal of work to be done.

As for proceeding by consensus, so far as that may be possible it is the Government's intention to have a general discussion at some stage to debate the general question of the press and the interim report. I will seek what information the provincial press can be made available.

Mr. John Grimmond (Orkney and Shetland, Lab.)—Will the Minister ensure that if assistance is offered in the press it does not result in more efficient parts of the press being penalized by the help of the others?

A great deal of the press is outside Fleet Street. Has the Minister any information to say about interim proposals for the provincial press?

Mr. Shore—The general agreement was that the most critical area of the press was Fleet Street, and that Fleet Street should be the focus of the interim report. It would be wrong to generalize the efficient parts of the press. We will have a clearer picture when the arithmetic is done as to who is efficient and who is not.

Mr. Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead, Lab.) asked for an assurance that there was no question of loss of the press unless and until there was agreement between the management and unions on redundancy and redeployment of labour.

Mr. Shore—I will echo sentiments to the helpful and forward looking approach of the unions and management in putting forward submissions to the royal commission, the contents of which would be invaluable and indispensable step forward. We have no intention of making available any loans under the royal commission's proposals unless and until agreements are reached by the royal commission, and at the house level, as indicated in the interim report.

Mr. Philip Whitehead (Derby, North, Lab.)—On both sides of the House there is a welcome for the view that there should be no automatic subsidy to the press. In the forthcoming discussions, will Mr. Shore make clear to both sides of the industry when they come forward with proposals, that we are committed to a pluralist press and to as many outlets as possible. That means the Government will not have a face against further concentration of ownership?

Mr. Shore—The royal commission itself makes clear that in putting forward proposals it has precisely those considerations in mind and is hostile to mergers of titles and houses affecting the diversity of the press. We have no intention of supporting any scheme for a general subsidy.

Mr. George Younger (Ayr, C.)—In the reassessment of the press, it is important to think of the future as well as of the past. It would be a poor bargain if we paid through the nose to eliminate old titles which would remain set until a further crisis hits the press.

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## OVERSEAS

# British Conservative MP sees 'a good deal of flexibility' in Rhodesian constitutional talks

From Michael Knappe  
Salisbury, March 17

After statements by Mr. Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the African leader, indicating a "little prospect of agreement," the two men and their negotiating teams held lengthy morning and afternoon sessions of constitutional talks here today.

Mr. Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, said after speaking to both men that he believed both sides were capable of "a good deal of flexibility" in the gap between them was wide, but he was "not altogether hopeless" of a settlement.

At a press conference after his three-day visit to Rhodesia, Mr. Griffiths, a former Conservative spokesman on foreign affairs, expressed admiration for the developments which had occurred in the Rhodesian economy in spite of international sanctions.

"Sanctions seem to have acted as a stimulus as much as anything else," he said. "They seem to have done more damage to neighbouring states than they have done to Rhodesia."

In answer to a question, however, he said Britain was under an international obligation to respect sanctions and should continue to do so until a settlement was reached, or was in the process of being reached.

Mr. Griffiths, who saw a cross-section of people, both black and white, during his visit, said he believed the two sides were "at their eleventh hour" so far as a settlement was concerned.

He emphasized that his visit was private and that he was not representing either the British Government or his party. He felt there was a good reason for Britain to reengage in the Rhodesian issue. Precisely

how, was a matter for careful consideration.

He believed Britain could contribute usefully in reaching a settlement. Failure to reach one could create an extremely serious situation affecting not only Rhodesia but southern Africa as a whole. He saw Rhodesia was at a point of balance between a sequence of events which could lead to disaster, and a sequence which could lead to progress.

At today's constitutional talks, Mr. Nkomo was accompanied by four executive members of the faction of the African National Council he leads and two white advisers, Mr. Justice Baron, the Deputy Chief Justice of Zambia, who has been legal adviser to Rhodesian African nationalists for a long time, and Mr. Robert, a British lawyer. The talks are due to resume on Friday, an indication of the urgency with which the need for progress is viewed.

## Navy chief censured for accepting favours

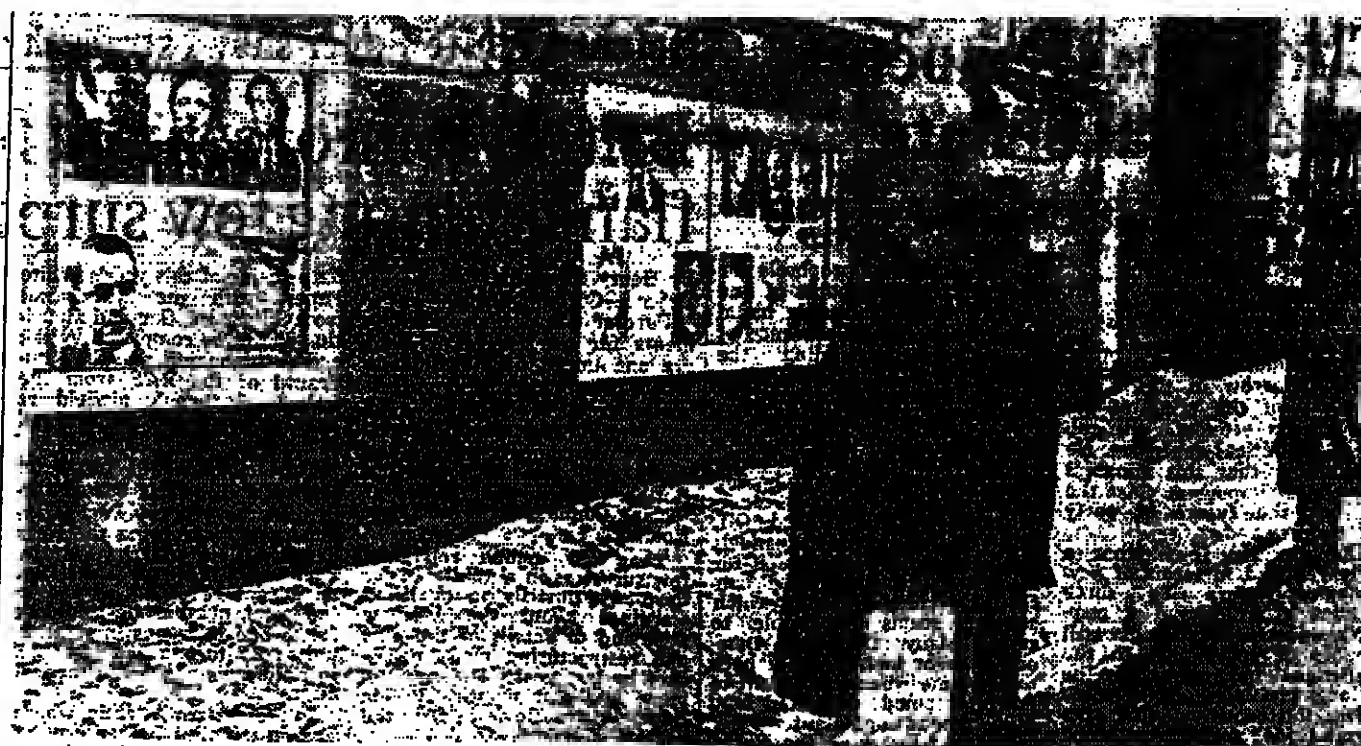
From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, March 17

Mr. William Middendorf, the Secretary of the Navy, has been formally admonished by the immediate superior, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, the Secretary of defence, for accepting hospitality from defence contractors.

Mr. Middendorf, director of research at the Pentagon, has also been reprimanded and fined a month's pay.

The two officials accepted favours from Rockwell International, one of America's biggest defence contractors. Mr. Middendorf spent a day hunting geese at a lodge on the Chesapeake Bay, owned by Rockwell, and Mr. Currie spent several days at a resort owned by Rockwell at Blount, in the Bahamas.

It is his job to choose between various weapons systems, and his decisions are worth thousands of millions of dollars to the firms concerned.



Passers-by in Moscow pause to look at photographs of candidates for the American presidency displayed yesterday outside the United States Embassy.

## Zambia seizes 'Unita plane' and white crew

Lusaka, March 17.—Mr. Aaron Miller, the Zambian Home Affairs Minister, today confirmed that the Government has seized a New Zealand-registered aircraft and is holding its five white crew members. It is alleged that the aircraft belonged to the pro-Western Angolan nationalist movement, Unita.

The incident came after a ban on Unita's use of Zambian airspace and territory by President Kaunda. The ban was enforced after Unita was routed in the recent Angolan civil war by the Popular Movement.

Our Lusaka Correspondent writes: Signor Dario Longhi, an Italian lecturer at the University of Zambia, has been served with a deportation order.

Signor Longhi, who was detained at the beginning of February, was released from the Mukoboko maximum security prison in Kahwe, north of here last Saturday.

## Illinois makes President Ford and Mr Carter the front runners

From Fred Emery  
Washington, March 17

By winning in Illinois their biggest primary election victory so far, President Ford and Mr Jimmy Carter, are gathering momentum as their respective party front-runners.

Mr Ford is, in fact, virtually unstoppable. By now this is no surprise, even though it was only three weeks ago that he scraped home in New Hampshire. The President has won five straight victories. Illinois was the first test of the Midwest and his 59 to 40 per cent defeat of Mr Reagan, although largely expected, was of the proportions that Americans term a landslide.

Mr Reagan insists that he will not give up. Somewhere out there, he insists, a victory is coming, and by this he means the South and West. His last chance in the South comes in 10 days time, in North Carolina.

Most observers have already written him off.

Mr Ford's success lies in his good fortune and his new-found shrewdness. His mistakes were made early on. His honesty is so well established that small clouds like last weekend's suspension of his campaign manager, Mr Howard ("Bo") Callaway, had no discernible impact. He is seen as so much more responsible than Mr Reagan, and the economy is beginning, at least in popular depictions, to "come up roses."

Still, all the euphoria in the Ford camp overlooks one nasty event earlier this week—the Gallup Poll which, for the first time, presented Mr Carter as tending to beat Mr Ford 47 to 42 per cent in a general election.

This poll reflected the enormous popularity given to Mr Carter's candidature by his victory in Florida. Today's result is even more impressive. He did unexpectedly well on two counts, and improving on expectations in "his business" gives an expanding magnification to the result far beyond the simple arithmetic.

First, he got 48 per cent of the presidential preference



vote, far ahead of Governor George Wallace who had 28 per cent. In Illinois this part of the vote is "now binding" in legal terms, but it has a magic, almost spellbinding effect for someone like Mr Carter who has come from nowhere in so short a time.

Second, Mr Carter did unexpectedly well in getting convention delegates pledged to him. These delegates are required to support the voter, and Mr Carter stands to secure 58 out of the 155 up for election.

He ran only 85 candidates, partly out of conviction that most of the rest were locked up by Mr Richard Daley, the mayor of Chicago. Mr Daley had his satisfactions yesterday, but his men got only 87 of the Illinois delegates, which was less than they had planned.

Mr Carter thus leads overall in the delegate race. He also has defeated Mr Wallace two weeks running, and reduced the Alabama governor's challenge to a run-off.

Mr Wallace got only three delegates. His remaining significance—and that is serious enough—is that he can continue to garner enough delegates to help deny any single candidate, including Mr Carter, the majority needed for assured nomination. To that extent, Mr Wallace is helping an outsider like Senator Hubert H. Humphrey to get "drafted".

Mr Carter in Illinois also finished off the minor "liberal" candidates. Mr Sargent Shriver, well known in Illinois but never taken seriously enough to get 16 per cent in what he hoped would be his best state, then he withdrew as an active candidate. Mr Fred Harris, the populist, got 8 per

cent. He is staying in even though the telephone has been disconnected. His headquarters in New York because the bills remain unpaid.

This leaves Mr Carter facing two main rivals on April 6. In New York Senator Henry Jackson (who was not a contender in Illinois) is the favourite on the "conservative" moderate side of the party, and in Wisconsin Mr. Romney is the favourite on the "liberal-progressive" spear carrier, will have to win to stay in the race. The betting now is that it will be left between Mr Carter and Mr Jackson.

Tha. Carter (and Ford) strategy of entering early where-in contrast in Senator Jackson's selectivity is shown in that it will be left between Mr Carter and Mr Jackson.

It is, in fact, irrelevant. Mr Carter is getting the benefit of the by-now evident Democratic voting preference for a "centrist" candidate. He is a new face. He is a winner again, as in Florida, he is the choice of those Blacks who bother to vote. The crunch will come when we have a head-to-head contest with Senator Jackson.

A footnote must come! Mayor Daley's revenge which, if not total, must nevertheless be sweet in his mind. Governor Daniel Walker, who called the mayor's handling of demonstrations at the Chicago Democratic Convention in 1972 a "police riot" and who came to be hated by the Daley machine, was defeated for the nomination for reelection by the mayor's handpicked successor, Michael D'Amico.

The proud mayor who had the humiliation of being defeated as an "irregular" at the 1972 Democratic convention, will go to the one in New York as the head of the largest block of Illinois delegates, surely edly supporting Senator Adlai Stevenson.

Grandmaster in 'mistake of the century'

Skopje, Yugoslavia, March 17.—A Russian grandmaster made what is being called the "mistake of the century" last night in an international chess tournament here.

Rafael Vaganian, in a strong position against Rista, Nicoski, of Yugoslavia, made a move overlooking the threat of a one-move mate against him. He then realized his error and resigned immediately, amid audience laughter.

Amstoly Karpov, the world champion, who is in the tournament, which ends tomorrow.—Reuter.

## Kenya minister back in Cabinet

Nairobi, March 17.—Mr Paul Nguni, who was a member of the Kenya Cabinet from 1965 until last November when the high court found him responsible for irregularities in 1974 elections, was reappointed to the Cabinet today by President Kenyatta.

He was appointed Minister of Cooperative Development, and the former holder of that portfolio, Mr Robert Matano, becomes Minister of Local Government.

## Dissension over future of 'errant' Mr Teng

From David Bonavia  
Peking, March 17

Signs of mounting dissension about the correct way to cope with China's "errant" deputy Prime Minister, Mr Teng Esiangping, became more evident in Peking today.

A commentary attributed to students and teachers at Peking University evidently took a hard line against Mr Teng, stating that the "capitalist roaders" in the party must inevitably be defeated.

This seemed to conflict with a similar commentary attributed yesterday to staff and students at the equally important University of Tsinghua, in Peking, which hinted fairly broadly that Mr Teng could still save his party and Government positions if he repented of his reputed errors of "revisionism".

The apparent dissension between the two universities reflects similar disguised disagreements in different organs of the Chinese official press, which came to the surface this week.

Peking, March 17.—The Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee has set up a special commission to carry out an inquiry into the "faults" of Mr Teng and other

"rightist" leaders, a well-informed diplomatic source said here today.

Mr Teng, who is also a party vice-chairman and Army Chief of Staff, was still refusing to admit his error and was maintaining the revisionist positions during the Cultural Revolution to examine accusations made by the Red Guards against prominent people under attack.

The revisionist policy of which Mr Teng and other unidentified leaders are being accused consists, according to the official press, of seeking to reverse certain "formal decisions" taken during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.

The New China news agency yesterday stated: "The party capitalist-roaders have great power and it is extremely dangerous when they practise revisionism." The agency also expressed the hope that Mr Teng, whom it still refrained from naming although he was clearly identified, might at last admit his errors so that he could be "used" again.

Agence France-Presse.

Agence France-Presse.

## Niger rebels face 'exemplary punishment'

Niamey, March 17.—Captain Sidi Mohamed, former

Cabinet chief at the Niger Defence Ministry, was the real brain behind Monday's abortive coup against the military government, Mr Daouda Diallo, the Information Secretary, said last night.

He told a press conference that Captain Sidi and two accomplices—Major Bayere Moussa, former Rural Economy Minister, and Mr Ahmed Moudou, former secretary-general of the Niger National Workers' Union—would receive "exemplary punishment". There could be no question of leniency towards "criminal" acts of this kind.

Mr Diallo said Captain Sidi and Major Bayere were wounded during clashes with loyal troops but their condition

was not serious. Eight soldiers and officers were killed including a captain in charge of the Republican Guard corps, and a staff-sergeant of the President's bodyguard.

Lieutenant-Colonel Seyni Kountche, the head of state, said all the dead were hurt with regimental honours, including the mutineers, who had not realized the "criminal" nature of the operation and they were ordered to carry on.

The rebels first occupied the Army staff headquarters with the aid of about 20 soldiers "dragged from their beds in a hurry". They then tried to take over the presidential palace adjoining the headquarters, but were defeated by loyalist troops, according to Mr Diallo. He said the three rebel leaders had unsuccessfully tried to rally support

among officers based in Niamey and the provinces.

The possibility that the coup attempt was organized with outside aid could not be ruled out. The arms used were all of foreign make and Captain Sidi had apparently been in touch on Monday morning with an unidentified foreign diplomat.

Mr Teng, who is also a party vice-chairman and Army Chief of Staff, was still refusing to admit his error and was maintaining the revisionist positions during the Cultural Revolution to examine accusations made by the Red Guards against prominent people under attack.

Agence France-Presse.

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# Nordic housing

a Special Report



A development near Stockholm in which old farm buildings have been preserved.

## Brick walls need not a warm home make

by Alan Bailey

The response of the British housing market to the intensive promotion of Scandinavian timber homes has been variable. Local authorities in North-east Scotland, faced with immediate housing difficulties after the influx of labour because of the discovery of North Sea oil, found them quick to build and visually acceptable. Individual buyers in South-east England and the principal resort areas find them elegant and comfortable second homes—and sometimes better-than-average first homes.

The leisure industry—the creators of holiday villages and related amenities—find them long-lasting and substantially more attractive than the traditional mobile homes and chalets to which the British have become accustomed.

Of course, the British are conservative about housing. This conservatism results in the continuance of traditional design, the perpetuation of the neo-Georgian and mock-Tudor styles, and a preference for brick, stone and slate with occasional lapses into concrete.

Log cabins smack of the amateur home-builder in the far west a century or so ago, garden sheds and draughty rural huts. To live in a log cabin for more than a week or two during the annual holiday is not quite British.

But we could be wrong. Log homes are traditional in the tough climate of Scandinavia. Some houses weatherproof accommodation during long bleak Nordic winters were built more than 600 years ago; and modern techniques of insulation and styling which are now built into the factory-made log houses provide thermally efficient, long-lasting and attractive homes.

The Norwegians, Swedes and Finns have been pains-taking about their market log houses for centuries. The efforts of the manufacturers have been supplemented by the trade associations and governments. Marketing and distribution companies have been established in the United Kingdom and British contractors, capable of constructing log housing eff-

ciently, have been carefully selected. The results can already be seen in many parts of Britain.

Typical are the Moelven Brug systems. This Norwegian group manufactures 3,000 houses a year in three forms: pre-cut, panel and modular. The pre-cut system is merely the delivery of timber components in packages to be built on site in the traditional way. The panel system—called the large element system by Moelven Brug—provides for factory construction of front and rear walls including glazing. The panels incorporate a moisture barrier and external cladding and the four-inch cavity is filled with insulating material. The modular system creates housing of varying sizes from a succession of prefabricated rectangular units 8 x 3 x 2.4 metres with all windows, doors, wiring, interior partition walls and decoration complete and, for bathroom and kitchen units, all necessary fixtures installed.

After accurate preparation of foundations, work on site is limited to lifting each module into position. Although primarily single storey, the system can incorporate roof level bedrooms with dormer windows. On site, the erection of a house on the module system takes five days from start to finish—an important feature in remote locations.

Moelven Brug has built 322 large element houses and 180 by the module system in Britain.

The great merit of building in timber is speed. About 95 per cent of new homes are built of timber in Norway—and, in Sweden and Finland more than 90 per cent of new houses are based on a prefabricated timber frame system. The Scandinavian climate tended to force the pace—often appalling weather conditions and short days during a long winter—and encouraged investment in systems which could be built in a factory all the year round and be erected on site as quickly as possible.

### Scale of imports not dramatic

It was speed which appealed to the local authority customers of Nordic systems: in North-east Scotland and, although the scale of imports has not been dramatic, rather more Scandinavian buildings have been erected in Britain than might be imagined.

In North-east Scotland Moelven Brug have built 500 for local authorities. Of the other major Norwegian firms, Block Wanne have supplied 430 units for local authorities in the Grampian Firth area, 150 in Aberdeenshire and 90 in Shetland; Steinkjer, Boligindustri have supplied 350 for local authorities and private buyers; and Brodrene Fjogstad have introduced about 50 in various locations including the Shetlands and the west coast of Scotland.

Swedish firms have provided about 200 houses, the largest individual supplier being Borohus, which has introduced 150 units to Aberdeenshire. Finnish firms have not been so active—probably providing less than 50 units overall, but these include some private houses in Edinburgh.

The potential market in second homes has not yet been exploited to any extent in Britain. The Scandinavians have rather more space for their populations and second homes for holidays are common. Design and thermal insulation are taken seriously—for example, Elementhus of East Grinstead, the British arm of a Swedish company, offers triple glazing as standard, probably the only firm of this kind to do so. The triple glazing system was

developed in Sweden as a result of the energy crisis.

The Elementhus range includes detached and semi-detached houses and these can be clad to meet the requirements of clients or to suit planning conditions. The firm has built an essentially Swedish style house in a Cotswold village and clad it externally in Cotswold stone.

The British second home market could strengthen appreciably. Certainly, the caravan villages could well be replaced by the log cabins exported by the Finns, Norwegians and Swedes.

Internal standards of finish need not perhaps be quite so high for holiday home purposes—the present high standards reflect those popular in the builder's home market, largely because at home the insides of the houses are lived in through the long winters. The high standards of insulation could well be lowered for the British market, too. The British have less feeling for temperature than the Scandinavians, particularly on holiday.

## Few changes for Japa

There has long been dissatisfaction with the internationalism of modern architecture. Cities throughout the world have developed office blocks rise in unrehearsed uniformity, as shopping centres are built on similar lines everywhere. But one of the most interesting steps towards internationalism in building must be the creation of a traditional Finnish log cabin village in Japan.

Karuizawa is a village holiday resort at the southern entrance to the Japanese Alps. The resort lies 3,250ft above sea level and is one of the most popular holiday areas in Japan. The area is about 100 miles west of Tokyo and holidaymakers can reach it in a little more than two hours by car and a little more than an hour by train. The park is in the mountainous region on Honshu island, a place of high peaks, cascading waterfalls and great scenic beauty. It has constant sunshine during the summer but its altitude ensures cooling breezes. With all this, its popularity is not surprising.

The area boasts many holiday hotels and is the site of the second homes of the wealthy including the Japanese Imperial Family. It sports golf courses, skating-rink, efficacious hot springs, skiing in winter and the usual facilities like tennis courts. It is also a haven for Japanese writers; the natural beauty of the area inspiring them to vivid prose.

In 1972 the Japanese advertised in Finnish and Scandinavian newspapers for the supply of 400 holiday cabins and additional related facilities for a holiday village in Japan. S. Lagerholm of Lovisa, near Helsinki, won the contract. The first phase was for 200 cabins. The second phase was dependent on the first phase arriving intact within three months—and it was the second phase which was to include, as well as the remaining 200 cabins, the shops and restaurant which would create the total village scene.

Needless to say, the first phase arrived in time. The consignment was transported across Russia and Siberia to its eastern seaboard and shipped to Japan from there. Few modifications were required to the standard units to suit the Japanese and the entire development is in traditional Scandinavian style. The cabins are all of two and

three bedroom sizes, each to accommodate at least four people. Finnish advisers were sent to supervise the digging of foundations and the assembly of the cabins and other buildings. The construction work was done by the Seibu Company of Japan, which has been responsible for building several hotels and other leisure buildings in Japan.

The interiors of the cabins and most of the other buildings are in traditional style in that walls have been left as they were built, without internal cladding. The logs were treated and the walls, roofs and floors were supplied complete with double glazing was standard throughout. The furnishings took two years to supply and complete—from 1972 to 1974—was intended for letting for holiday purposes; but a few of the log cabins have been sold outright.

So delighted were the Japanese with their village that they imported a Finnish reindeer to add more local colour to the opening ceremony.

Lagerholm's United Kingdom presence is through Lancashire's Finnimport (UK) of Gerrards Cross. The firm was established three years ago and imports log cabins and house components directly from Finland. The firm has a mobile factory which goes to new felling areas and processes the timber into its housing components on the spot.

The engineering is advanced and each logging



Traditional Scandinavian Japan. A Finnish company tract for this holiday resort.

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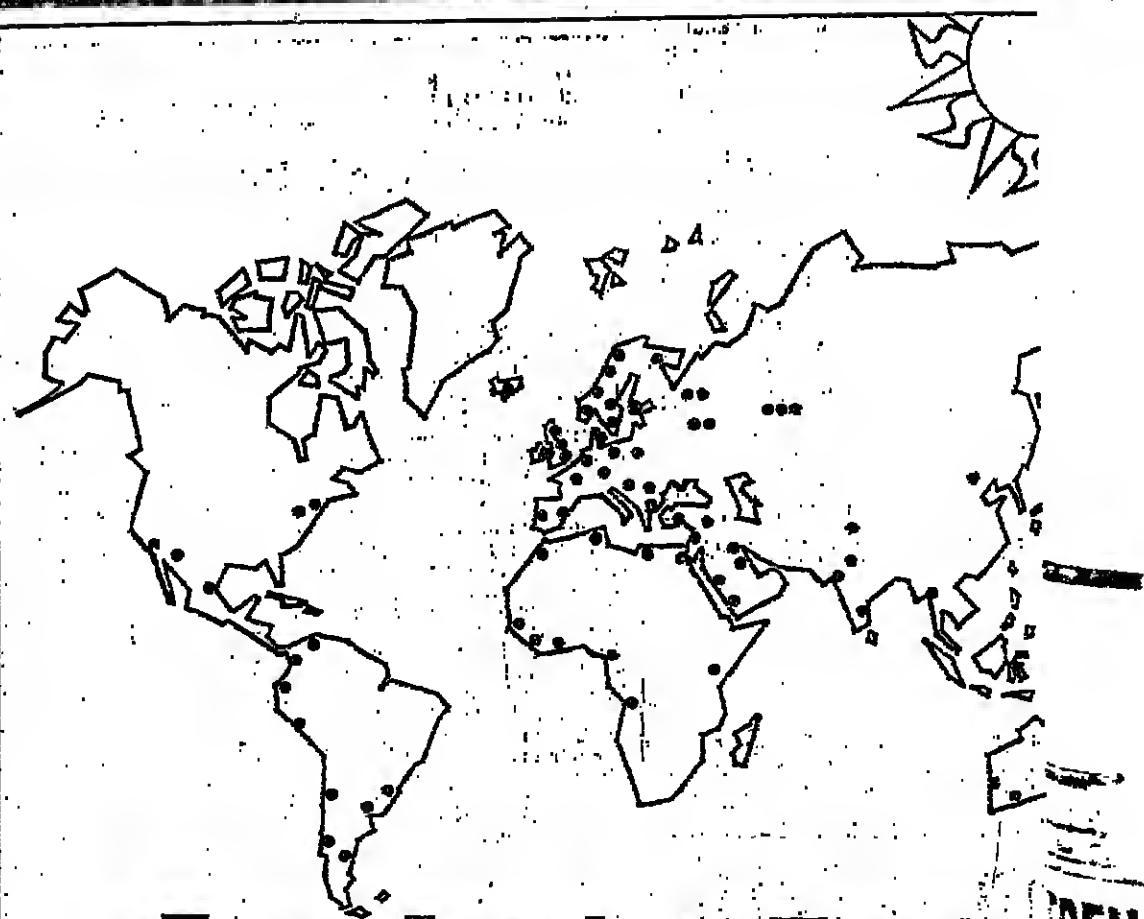
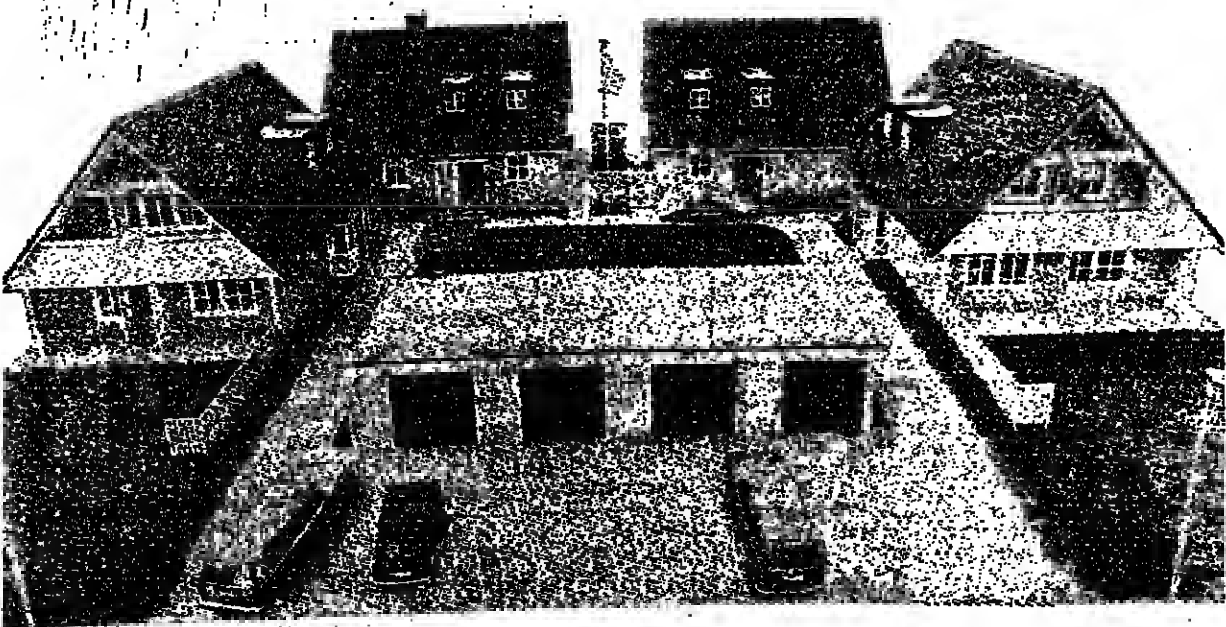
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## Big potential for timber frames

by Edward Townsend

Over-frame housing has the biggest growth potential in the industry in Britain, according to a leading builder. As yet it is a sector that has hardly been touched, and it is the role of manufacturers, who have built a reputation for quality and expertise in the field, who are doing the work.

Competition between them is fierce, both at home and overseas markets. To retain the Norwegian producers' dominance, thanks to some big contracts in the north, but it has been fit to the Swedish and the firms to establish subsidiaries and let out the battle lines.

The price to be fought for could be rich. Timber frame houses, although not cheap, are easy and quick to erect, and because they are developed in northern countries, they have a high standard of insulation. The system appears to be ideal for individual house buyers and for local councils seeking speedy erection of housing estates.

In particular, the timber frame system has been successful in the north of Scotland where there has been a "strong need" to find homes for the large number of "kissers" who come to the oil boom.

Both Finnish and Norwegian manufacturers are present. The Finnish prefabricated house sales organisation, based on a share of a big Scottish deal, while Moelven of Norway has seen its steel used in the construction of the new developments. British builder Barratt Developments has used timber frame prefabricated units for the last 16 months. The system has also been used on four private schemes.

William Bruce Barratt, managing director in London, says that the company has built 137 houses, with a possible 18 months' conventional construction methods been used.

One of the reasons for the success of the system is that it is today advanced. Barratt built the 137 houses with a fifth of the cost and there were no problems. At the time of building labour in the east of Scotland was not available and the who were available commanding premium prices.

Today, the need to reduce employment could force local authorities to accept any plans for erecting with the timber frame prefabrication.

Most that, however, the speed of construction means a shorter period of erection. In one case, the cost of the houses had to be found seven months rather than 18 months, Mr Bruce said, had demonstrated that there were no problems.

At the time of building labour in the east of Scotland was not available and the who were available commanding premium prices.

Those are words which you quickly become familiar with when dealing with various sections of the Scandinavian building trade. They are synonymous with top quality material, design and expertise.

AB Åsedahus is one of the leading manufacturers of prefabricated wooden houses in Sweden. The idea behind the company is to simplify the work of the building site, and this is why every element is made to produce building elements that are complete: wall, ceiling and floor elements, windows and doors.

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## Paying special attention to insulation

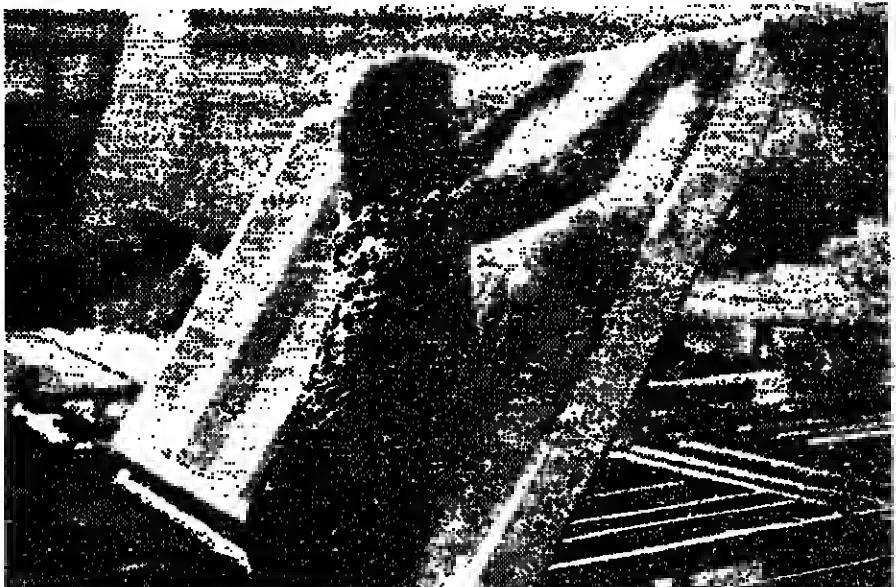
The range of cabins, bungalows and houses available from Norway, Sweden and Finland is wide. Most of them are of obvious Scandinavian origin in design, but some have that international anonymity which many buyers seem to prefer. No matter which particular supplier is chosen, the range has a number of standard features which stem from the climate of the countries which produce them.

The most apparent is the high standard of thermal insulation. Hard winters, long nights and short days mean that Scandinavians need homes which can withstand the rigours of climate. Quite apart from the climate, the Scandinavians seem to prefer marginally higher internal temperatures and, in consequence, particular attention is given to insulation and heat conservation. Windows are often double-glazed rather than double-glazed with often a 50mm gap between the panes. Blinds can be fitted between the panes. Triple glazing is now being introduced as a result of the energy crisis.

In the walls, there is usually at least 100mm of mineral wool packed in an insulating barrier and there is at least 150mm thickness of the same material between the ceiling joists. Doors are often double-glazed and can be hollow-core, packed with insulating material.

Metal windows are rarely used, but the insulation on doors and windows is advanced in both design and effectiveness. "Tension" windows which swing have been introduced and recently some firms have been experimenting with ventilation holes in the window units so that the windows need never be opened. High insulation standards mean that conditioning equipment is often necessary.

Roof cladding is traditional and similar claddings common in the United Kingdom can be used. There is a trend towards sheet materials which are easily made by machine and are transport and fix—copper, aluminium and asbestos. The materials are durable and suit the varying weather conditions experienced throughout the year. Heating is also traditional in the modern sense—oil-fired or electrical central heating—but many Scandinavian houses and bungalow types available on the British market incorporate a small log-burning fire more as a



Making prefabricated houses at a sawmill at Riihimäki, 40 miles from Helsinki.

focal point than a source of heat.

The Scandinavians like large living rooms—once again probably as a result of the climate. The Finns are fond of saunas and most Finnish models have a sauna built in. The British market is not always receptive to the sauna idea and buyers sometimes convert the sauna space to another small bedroom, extra living space or simply a junk cupboard.

The British impose high standards in their building regulations—rather higher than those of the Scandinavians for wiring and plumbing. The suppliers have adapted to the requirements and the bathroom and kitchen units which are incorporated in the British market are of a high standard.

The Scandinavians are also strong believers in the use of basements made from concrete or lightweight insulating blocks. A bungalow built in, say, Sweden could have twice the floor area of the same kind of surface building in Britain. Building regulations and building costs in this country probably make basements prohibitively expensive.

## Land of a million saunas

by Donald Fields

Though it originated in the Volga valley, the authentic sauna is as Finnish as champagne is French and Scotch is Scottish. The Finns have allowed others to steal a march on them, such as allowing the Germans to build up a huge capacity, much of it pale imitations of the real product.

Sauna building accounted for almost 5 per cent of total wooden prefabricated house exports of Fmk 35.2m in 1975. Houses containing saunas were valued at Fmk 7.6m, and indoor saunas mainly installed in hotels and flats—Fmk 5.6m. A Fmk 9.4m bonus came from sauna stoves, while such accessories as wooden bowls and ladles, birch switches and cosmetics helped to push sauna-oriented exports to about Fmk 25m, about £3.2m.

Roughly half the world market remains in Finland, a land of a million saunas, where domestic manufacturers encounter little outside competition. As exporters the Finns come off best in Sweden, West Germany and the Soviet Union for outdoor saunas; in West Germany and the United Kingdom for indoor models; and in the United States and Sweden for heaters.

### Great strides in Britain

Saunas and stoves are almost without exception produced by separate firms. Roughly a dozen companies are listed as sauna-building manufacturers, some of them arms of wood-processors, a lot of them leaning heavily on foreign agents who may have many other irons in the fire.

In this disparate business, Rantasauna is not typical in its high share of sauna output exported—more than half. Combining spruce interiors with pine exteriors, it has made impressive strides in the building business in the United Kingdom, where Edinburgh corporation has invested in one of the world's largest public saunas.

Sauna-builders, willing to tailor-make their products for local conditions, are constantly introducing refinements—aluminium-panelling and fibre-glass insulation to produce the requisite amount of moisture; redwood or cedar panelling, at

which Finns would shudder, to please the Americans.

As critical for sauna enjoyment as the building is the stainless steel stove, whose heat output should accord with the sauna's dimensions. In Finland there may still be 250 makers of wood-burning stoves operating like village blacksmiths, but the dearth of wood abroad means that exports are almost confined to electric models produced by large firms.

The prominence of the United States in the sauna heater market owes much to the efforts of Helsinki, which has overcome voltage and amperage problems to win approval in 37 countries.

A scientific approach is employed by Kestor, whose managing director, Professor Nilo Teeri, says: "Many of the electrically-heated saunas made abroad do not produce superheated steam waves or ionize the air when water is thrown on the stones." This diabolical stone, high in metal content, covers the sauna stove. Crucial in obtaining the tingling sauna sensation, they are changed yearly. Against a stove lifespan of 10 years.

Demand for the sauna, an essential in Finland but a luxury elsewhere, has inevitably dipped since the energy crisis, but there are signs of an upturn. Manufacturers, jealous guardians of their own independence, may gradually be learning the value of teamwork. Last December six Finnish producers commanding 10 per cent of the high-potential West German market launched a joint project in association with their agents, and this might herald a combined assault in other countries.

Meanwhile, all who enjoy a genuine, Finnish sauna are disconcerted to see advertisements for saunas made in Sweden televised from European sports studios. Unimaginative in communicating with the outside world, the Finns need to brush up their ideas about a product they should sell easily.

As Mrs Hannell Holmberg, of the Finnish Foreign Trade Association, explains: "The Swedes are not doing any harm. They advertise a lot, but their products are not as good as ours. Our companies should invest more in marketing and cooperate better with their agencies abroad."

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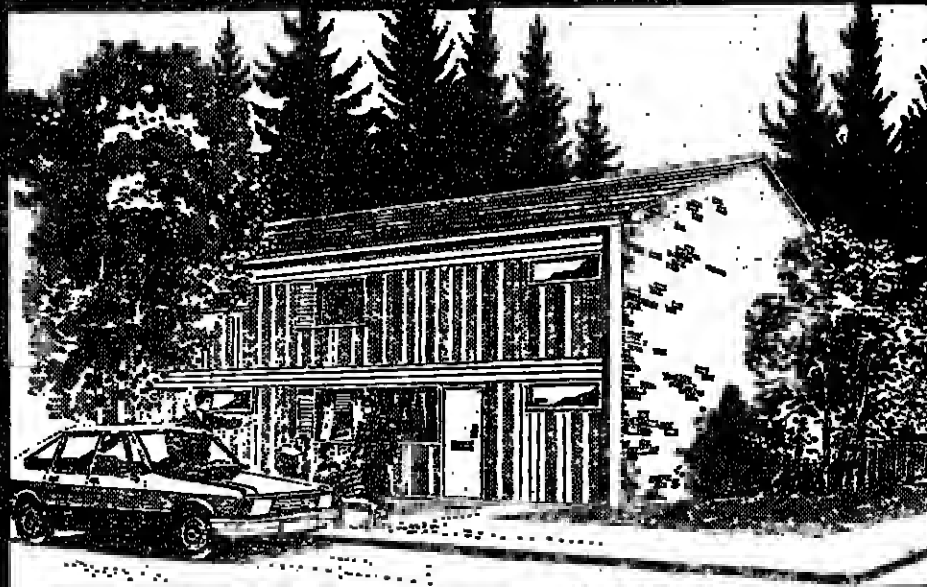
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engineers in wood



## Bernard Levin

## Making my peace, finally, with Mr Wilson

Harold Wilson's sense of the political dramatic was always acute, and never more so than in the manner of his departure from the office for which he had so long striven and in which his mastery of the political arts was so unceasingly displayed, to the confounding of the prophets, the discomfiture of his critics and the helpless rage of his political opponents.

It is probable that none of his critics ever said more things intended to wound him, or anything intended to wound him more deeply, than did I. It would be absurd and hypocritical if I were now to suggest, merely because he has left office (he is not dead after all, and even if he were, it would not be seemly for me to strew artificial flowers on his grave) that I never meant it. But a just assessment of his career, his praise and blame duly apportioned, can wait a week or two; and the judgment of history can safely be left to history, which will get it wrong as usual. To day, though, I can hardly not write in the political first person. I think it is both possible and proper now that it is at last no longer necessary to wage political war on him, for me to make the allowances that I always refused before.

## The insoluble dilemma

Harold Wilson's leadership of the Labour Party was beset by an insoluble political dilemma. The dilemma did not exist, in any serious sense, for Attlee, and it was still soluble in the time of Gaitskell. But by the time Mr Wilson first became Prime Minister, it was apparent that the circle could not be squared, and the rest of his career, in office and out, was dominated by the fact that although the Labour Party was like other political groupings in that it was a coalition of different interests, it was unique in that the two main interests over which he presided were ultimately incompatible; there is no way in which those who want a Marxist state, if necessary (or even for preference) at the expense of economic and political democracy, can be forever combined with those who want social democracy to remain fully democratic.

Those were the two bareback horses this incomparable political stunt man had to ride simultaneously; and he saw his of keeping the Labour Party, with all its inherited and acquired responsibilities as the voice of organized labour, from coming apart. The scorn he used to express in private for those of his critics who either did not understand this or who (like me) refused to accept that it should be his highest political duty was perfectly genuine, and, given his point of departure, perfectly fair.

For it was not, after all, as if he had no views of the matter himself. Nobody charges him with being made against Harold Wilson, who could ever accuse him of an indifference to democracy; politically, temperamentally and morally he stood on the social-democratic side of the chasm. That being so, the skill with which he fashioned the trail bridges of words that kept the two sides connected, was of an exception-

ally high—indeed uniquely high—order.

Harold Wilson always maintained that the Labour Party's great battle over defence in which Gaitskell defied the left, in his "fight, fight and fight again" speech was unnecessary, that a formula could be found that would preserve the substance while leaving both sides reasonably content. It seemed impossible; yet when he himself faced a left wing not only far more powerful but far more worldly, too, he managed it again and again, beckoned on each time by the lights that spelled out "unity". Over defence, over foreign policy, over unemployment, finally over the reductions in the rate of increase in public spending, he managed the impossible. Perhaps the absurd revolt of the left in the House of Commons last week, though he contained it with contemptuous ease (for all their spluttering, he knew they would not bring down the Government, and they knew he knew), was the blow that weakened him finally, that about face the truth that, however many times he could yet succeed in steering the two horses, they would come apart in the end.

The extraordinary thing about his balancing act was how little damage it did the country for so long. It may even be that the realization that that state of affairs had come to an end, that the attempt to reconcile the irreconcilable was now ebbing away at the foundations of our liberties and our economic survival alike, was what prepared his mind and his will for the final exit, which might have been brought about in any one of a dozen ways, even if in fact it was caused as I have suggested. (But speculation about Harold Wilson's motives never was a very useful exercise.)

## The fearful struggle

I do not envy his successor. And I doubt if his successor will long envy himself. The country is going to go through a bad time, and the Labour Party through a worse one, and though they may both survive to better days, it will not be without a fearful struggle. No doubt whoever leads the party will deem it necessary to continue without Harold Wilson's skill, without Harold Wilson's achievements will be impossible, and in any case, the irony of the situation lies in the fact that the breakup of the Labour Party may be the only thing that can save the country.

But these speculations can wait, too. For the present, the only thing remaining for me to do is to wish Harold Wilson a long and happy retirement, and to conclude by expressing my certainty that whatever he decides to do in it, he will succeed in surprising us all yet again.

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In a recent article on this page on the subject of the "Bennism" of the Labour Party, Ronald Faux said that capital gains tax is a severe disincentive to forestry. This should have read capital transfer tax.

## Fleet Street's new willingness to help itself persuade the Government to lend a hand

Something funny happened to the Press Commission's interim report on its way to the agenda for Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, and consideration of its recommendations was justly aside by the Prime Minister's resignation. Thus the story that stimulated newspaper sales and excited editorial and production staff has left management and union leaders in suspense about their futures and whether government help is forthcoming.

If the details and recommendations of the interim report are any guide, no government could refuse. There is no confusion about the financial plight of the national newspaper industry (including the two London evening papers), and the commission's contention that this is the proper time for help, is substantiated by a table of negative cash flow figures. Even with realisation of some assets and where applicable, injections of cash from the main groups' other sources of income, allied to heavy borrowing, the picture is gloomy—£10.1m loss for the quality papers and £1.5m for the populars.

By themselves, such figures might suggest that the press is an unworthy cause, but the improvement in 1976 projections—respectively nearly £8m and a shade above £1m—puts a new light on the scene. Even without completing the introduction of new technology and before reducing staff to realistic levels, the industry has clearly learned to help itself.

On average, a quality daily costs

it can ever recover in sales, advertising and other revenue. Multiply that by total sales, and the arithmetic gets worse. Quality dailies lost nearly £4m in 1975. Quality Sundays lost £3m and, although the popular papers managed a combined total profit, they are still losing fractionally on a cost per copy basis.

So much for 1975, but it does need to be remembered that 1974 was a disaster year and each updating of figures, plus forward projections, must be viewed in context. For most publishing concerns, the situation is critical. There is no sign of costs levelling out, sales are being dented by rising prices of all goods so that there is considerably reduced spending power.

The current year will, for many titles, be the third successive year of loss. Of eight daily and seven Sunday papers (the *Morning Star* asked to be excluded from the report) only four dailies and one Sunday showed any kind of profit in 1975—the allocation of costs and other overheads may sometimes belie the performance of any single title but the parent group's year-end result cannot be distorted in this way.

Newspaper is mainly outside the control of publishers, or even of the government, and the price of imports is constantly affected by the rising cost of oil and a weak pound, to say nothing of worldwide inflation.

The only way to reduce costs is to go for higher productivity by modern methods and the reduction

of manpower. The state of the London evenings is such that those perpetual rumours of a merger between the two, followed by the emergence of a new central London newspaper from Mr Rupert Murdoch's *Sun/News of the World* group, carry some credence. However, as the commissioners state in their report, mergers are not the real answer to the survival of all existing newspaper titles, which is the aim of unions and managements. All parties tend to believe that democracy is best served by the daily publication of many differing views.

And the cost? Estimates are that redundancies and the essential improvement of pension and retirement schemes would cost anything up to £35m (allowing for £5m of entitlements from the Redundancy Payments Fund). Investment in new methods and machines would run into some £20m and the investment allied to loss of jobs next four years—post-charge savings are estimated at about £35m, covering all national and the London evenings.

The commission recommends that financial aid should come from the private sector, and nominates the FFI (Finance for Industry) because of its experience with industrial problems at first hand and its ability to monitor loans. The Government, however, is expected to play some role. Should any publisher be unable to meet FFI's terms and requirements, the Government might step in.

The commission also recommends interest relief of not more than 4 per cent for two years, to be paid by the Government to all houses.

By and large, the commission has been thoughtful in reaching its conclusions to protect newspapers and democracy from possible government controls and regular interference. The commission emphasises that nothing is being asked that has not already been granted to other industries and points out frequently that this interim report was born of the concern that newspapers were facing, last summer, an unprecedented financial crisis.

The suggestion for private sector help is wise in its contribution to preserving a free press as we know it—apart from Mr Foot's curious contention that might affect editorial freedom—and is also politically sound. The Treasury is hatching down the hatch and informing the Government that this, that or the other ideology just cannot be afforded. To have attempted to impose the whole burden on government would have been to tempt destiny, or a confusing compromise of little practical use. The mooted solution looks at least possible, if not probable.

The report is excellent, well documented and researched and presented with relevant, clear tables in the way that Whitehall does best. The work done should serve the industry well in practical terms, the only real terms on which to save many ailing

titles, if not all of them, to be too many consumers.

The committee of the report to the people who because they profess some and copy management and a reality, and that committee will ensure the commission tribute the detest of Mr. Duke Hesse of Times Newspaper K's, who led on pricing unions.

Mirror Group N resigned in disgust paper Publishers' joined the talks persuasion when dedication to the practical common leaders are now fer the members' tied with respect and that is still r

The report hi lenacity of produ high wages and sal range between lo the rising prices, achievements are a 20 many years of 1975, seem to be a Street—or at worst

## The importance of Mr Vorster if Rhodesia's border war spreads



Rhodesian security forces: Superior weapons, mobility tactics and numbers.

Three major influences will shape events in Rhodesia in the next few months. The first is whether the Smith regime and the Nkomo-led ANC reach, or get perhaps very close to, agreement. The second is whether the Rhodesian army officers further publishing and well publicized defeats on the guerrilla fighters before Cuban or other reinforcements could join them. The third is Mr Vorster's moves behind the scenes. In my view Britain has only a very minor role for the time being.

The prospective danger to the white Rhodesians from the enforcement of sanctions by Mozambique can be shortly stated and have been by Mr Banda, the Foreign Minister of Zambia. This is that Rhodesian reversals in the field, and perhaps in international relations, would encourage the black population to prepare mentally and perhaps organizationally for a general revolt.

Once the six million Africans were convinced that the whites were going to lose, and fairly soon, nothing would stop them openly changing sides. Only the intellectuals are so far convinced. The dominance of the white minority is based on consent and cooperation, on the "happier" of the "happier" changes, their position becomes progressively unsustainable in the face of determined guerrilla fighting.

But it is not immediately likely. The Rhodesian forces have fully held their own in fighting since 1972 losses of 10 to one. They still have superior weapons, mobility tactics and numbers; the guerrillas have only the advantage of surprise. The Rhodesians have made good use of traditional tribal and other animosities to inhibit cooperation with guerrillas. All this the population sees, and has therefore remained uncommitted.

Africans are pragmatic and perspicacious to the extreme. On the night of UDI an elder said to me: "Mr Smith has won, I do not hear Mr Wilson's aeroplanes."

This would change if the security forces failed to sustain appreciable losses in the future. Such setbacks cannot come from the present guerrilla forces, whose effective strength probably does not exceed 4,000. There is no proof that any such larger forces are training. Heavy losses inhibit the growth of campaigning skills, perhaps of leadership. This position can therefore only change if Cubans or others enter the fight.

Reports of advance formations of Cubans in Mozambique have been denied by Fidelino ministers, but in any case drafts from the 12,000 in Angola would be needed and could not be cancelled. Those who would push them into action must, however, think carefully. The Cubans have got to win almost as quickly and decisively as they did against Udi. Otherwise the Rhodesians will acquire the prestige of letting the gas out of the Cuban balloon, and showing that Russian weapons and mercenaries are not all-powerful in Africa. Such a success would give the Rhodesians a long respite from restlessness on the domestic front. The Rhodesians say they are confident they can take Cuba on.

This is where Mr Vorster's influence becomes important. He is strong vis-a-vis Mozambique. If he indicates that an act of war as opposed to a "hot foot" against Rhodesia will mean reprisals against the Mozambique economy and aid for the Rhodesians, President Machel and his Russian friends would have only one higher

card to play: the escalation of the border war into a major war with the risk of international developments.

For they would then have to bring in such massive foreign reinforcements that the African liberation fighters would become a sideshow. Russia would be committing itself to liberate Rhodesia (and South Africa) for the good of the black man and without his help—indeed, precisely because he has shown incompetence. This would rescue the West from its present predicament of wanting to stop Russian expansion in Africa while being obligated to enforce sanctions against Rhodesia to force a "return to constitutionalism".

By limiting Mozambique's actions to economic sanctions Mr Vorster will be holding the ring for the Smith regime—for a little time longer.

But as the South Africans see it, beyond the short-run the Rhodesian position is hopeless. Every year the youngish black population rises by up to

200,000, compared with an increase of 4,000 (including immigrants) for the aging white population. Mr Smith's successful manoeuvres against all attempts to tighten the net around Rhodesia has filled the old men of the Front with confidence. But the net has now tightened.

If Mr Vorster allowed Sir Seretse Khama to join UN sanctions, besieged Rhodesia would rely on a single railway link via Beit Bridge.

South Africa's interest is clear: a "moderate" African government (majority rule need not mean one-man-one-vote democracy) in alliance with the white Rhodesian administrative structure, which would on independence immediately reject the guerrillas' claim to be liberators, use the apparatus of the former white state to smash them if they persisted and assert its rights in the OAU.

But while Mr Smith and the Front may be facing the need to bring in Mr Nkomo and his Matshela supporters (for they think in tribal terms) as junior partners in government, it is still almost inconceivable that

they are ready to become the junior partner in an Nkomo government (non-racial and "responsible" as it might be). That is the gap.

Yet nothing less, as the South Africans can see, would provide Mr Nkomo with the authority to assert that an adequate settlement had been reached assuring majority rule and thus bring to his support the four key African presidents (Kaunda, Seretse Khama, Machel and Nyerere), and relegate the Cubans from the status of revolutionary brothers-in-arms to that of non-African intruders.

As time gets shorter, as African expectations harden, the acceptable transition period gets shorter too, if a new government is not to be successfully branded as a sell-out. Mr Nkomo will hang on for a long time in hope of gaining the point, for he and his supporters have a grim picture otherwise.

Anyone who knows the white Rhodesians, their conditioning and traditions, knows how unlikely such a quick transition is,

when for 10 moderate pr transition pr anly, even d Mame will st on in hies ( positioning a major war ( not save and stroy the R life) or perha surrounding ments as th spreading ex the practical common leaders are now fer the members' tied with respect and that is still r

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The alternat to an other majority rule transition does the great t which rich pri have had to countries, inc "No" means a Nkomo and t the other side African part e

How long the prologue is t with Mr Nkomo against them, would have t to do to the re

## The Times Diary

## Mr Benn wipes away his past

I like to see all shades of opinion represented, and was therefore pleased to read in the children's magazine *Look and Learn* of the formation of The London Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

## Bless you

I could tell it was going to be a class day as soon as I gave my name and affiliation to the man waiting outside the door. "The Times, eh?" he said. "I should have known."

"Oh, really," I replied. "Why is that?"

"Well, you can always tell the chap from the *Daily Mirror*", he confided. "They wear pin-stripes and bowlers."

"What you're trying to say," I retorted, "is that I look rather scruffy." He back-pedalled but it was too late. Mind you, it was a mere £35 grey mottled job from Marks & Spencer. (It was, however, accompanied by a more sumptuous blue and red check shirt from a sale at Simpson's of Piccadilly.)

The function was hosted by the Society of South Grinders, Bleeders and Purveyors, whose claim that snuff-taking straddles class barriers is to be taken with a pinch of something-or-other. It is sold mainly from high-class tobacconists in the West End.

Marcel Lipton, the elderly Labour MP for part of Bristol and an honorary member of

the society, confirmed my social diagnosis when I asked him whether snuff-taking was prevalent in his constituency. "I did once see an old man taking snuff in a chair in Clapham Park Road", he told me. "But not apart from that. The immigrant community don't partake of it."

His own honorary membership was in recognition of his service in getting snuff omitted from the list of tobacco products which must have government health warnings on them. The purpose of the function was to install Patrick Allen, the actor, as another honorary member. He made a good (though probably not an original) joke about snuff purveyors "poking their business into other people's noses".

## Stunning

The disused Surrey docks, for which Southwark Council is to announce ambitious plans next month, have recently assumed a new role as a bird sanctuary. According to Hilary Peters, 109 species have been listed since 1970 when the last ship sailed, including kingfishers, kestrels, skylarks, ringed plovers, goldfinches, black redstarts and red-legged partridges.

But, she continues, the visitors are endangered by poisons put down to get rid of sparrows and pigeons. Birds are dropping dead in the streets, she claims.

Resistible who have been engaged by the owners of a

food warehouse in Rotherhithe to rid them of their daily bombardment of bird droppings, insist they are not using poison, and that to do so would be to contravene the Protection of Birds Act. Instead they are employing a stupefying agent under licence from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The drug induces hypothermia in the birds which, in the case of pigeons and sparrows, are then disposed of. Other species are allowed to recover in a warm place and then set free. Occasionally, though, the system goes fatally wrong. Birds are frightened away by traffic while feeding on drugged grain and fly on to the road in a dazed state.

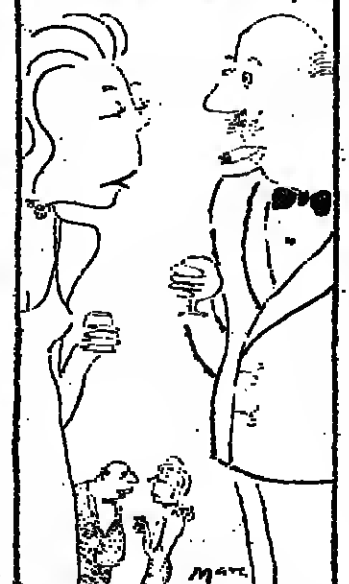
## Dear Mum

The mothers of 35 moderately famous sons and daughters had a day out in London at the expense of the greeting card industry yesterday, to help celebrate an expected sale of 35 million Mother's Day cards this year, compared with a mere 19 million for Father's Day. They enjoyed a three-course lunch at a riverside hotel.

There was Mrs Bonington, whose son recently went up Everest, Mrs Clemence whose little boy Ray keeps goal for Liverpool, Mrs Lawrie whose daughter Marie changed her name to Lulu, and Mrs Rantzen, who is the sporting image of little Esther. But the best known mother on the invitation list telephoned at the last minute to say she had declined for the third year running: "family pressures" was the excuse proffered by Mrs Ursula Thorpe.

My reporter sat next to Mrs Fletcher from Bishop Auckland, who proudly reminded him that her eldest boy Brian had won the Grand National three times.

"If you really want Roy to win what about not announcing your support?"



two of them on Red Run. Everyone stood up and applauded Mrs Moore, aged 93, whose boy Patrick is keen on astronomy but will not do his hair.

The greeting card industry, which is forever grateful to President Woodrow Wilson for establishing Mother's Day back in 1914, would like you to know that this year it falls on Sunday, March 28.

## Innuendo

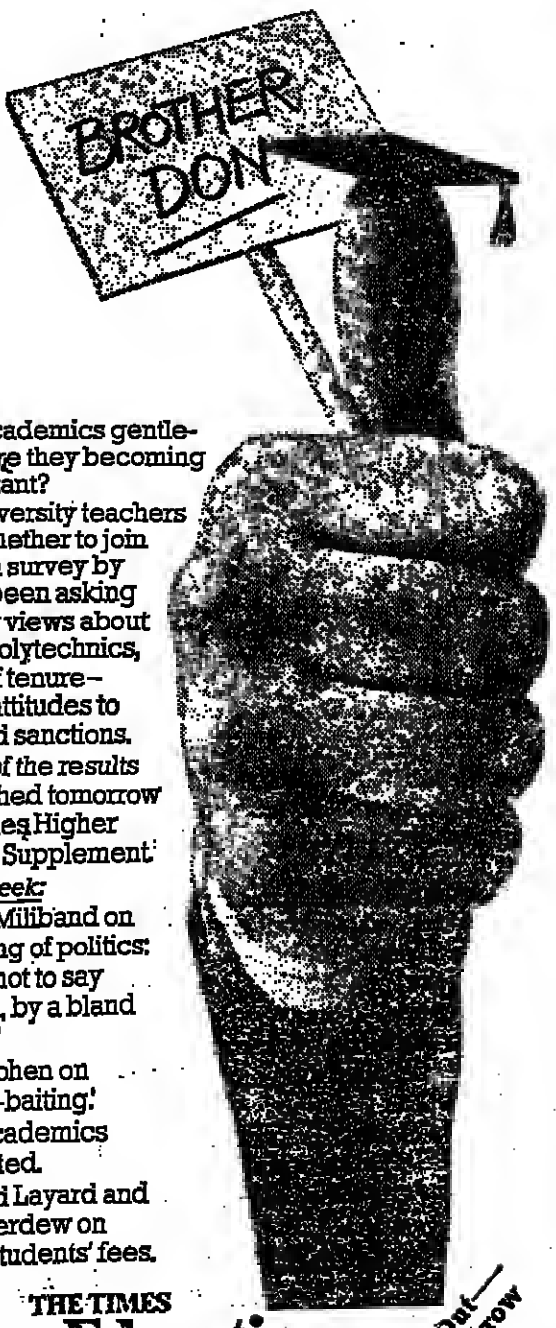
The BBC are taking revenge for my criticisms of some of their programmes by making snide insinuations against me in their organ, *Radio Times*, in the latest issue there is an

article on allott an interview w Smith, who has c the article s non the mission Times diarist, and Albert expr "what I might c lower-middle cl days, with the vegetable, pr premium for all that it might e thing for the dle as a hobby for mag".

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Just peopl The Greater Lond cil for Local Ad vices have been e entiously throug book to bring ploves' designat with the Sex Disc As a result, comm to cowhand, nigh night soil empti pressman to shup tive, and row t to town hall secu On the other hnd, is to reme chanse though? henceforward h res.

On the other hnd, is to reme chanse though? henceforward h res.



Are academics gentlemen—or are they becoming more militant?

As university teachers vote on whether to join the FUC, a survey by NOP has been asking them their views about salaries, polytechnics, security of tenure—and their attitudes to strikes and sanctions.

More of the results are published tomorrow in *The Times Higher Education Supplement*. Also this week:

Ralph Miliband on the teaching of politics: 'suffused, not to say suffocated, by a bland orthodoxy'.

Stan Cohen on 'Sociology-baiting': How academics get promoted.

Richard Layard and Tony Flowerdew on overseas students' fees.

THE TIMES  
Higher Education  
SUPPLEMENT

Out tomorrow 15p





## A PRESS THAT MAKES LOSSES

of the conditions for a free independent press is that it should be commercially viable for a period of years. Most newspapers, like other organisations, should be able to take a few bad years in their stride, at a state of chronic and mounting deficit is quite another matter. Yet the interim report of the Royal Commission on the Press shows that a wealth of evidence that is the condition of many national papers in Britain today. Only three dailies in 1974, only four dailies in 1975, and only five in 1976, are likely to be in the words of the report, "a third successive year of loss for a number of years". The burden of debt is mounting up and there is no prospect of demand from either readers or advertisers being such as to offer the hope of salvation through higher revenue in time to save a number of publications. The only hope lies in cutting costs. But one of the largest elements of costs is newspaper print, and the price of that is determined by world market conditions beyond the control of any publisher, and by the level of the scale of production. Savings on a scale can be obtained there only by cutting production and the development of new technology presents a last chance for some papers and the opportunity for all of getting on

to a more secure commercial foundation than for a great many years. The savings to be achieved by this new technology will be largely in the composing room, so that it will be of particular benefit to those papers for whom composing costs are a relatively large proportion of the total—in other words, those with a large amount of print to set but a comparatively small circulation. There are other areas of production, however, where savings can be obtained by lower

manpower levels. Agreement has been reached in principle between the publishers and unions within the industry on introducing new technology and achieving more realistic manning levels. But the report calculates that it would cost up to £55 million to implement this agreement, partly to pay for the new technology and partly to compensate those who became redundant. Adequate compensation is needed both on social grounds and because there could otherwise be no agreement on such schemes at all. In the long run the savings would be considerable, but the immediate cost is more than some papers could bear.

The commission propose that so far as possible such operations should be financed by the private sector through Finance for Industry, and where this is not possible the Government should

offer loans. All loans, it is proposed, should receive a limited amount of interest relief from the Government. Whenever any suggestion is made of special governmental assistance to newspapers it is right to ask whether this is compatible with the freedom of the press. It certainly would not be if newspapers were regular supplicants at the Treasury's door. For that reason there should never be any question of preferential loans on a continuing basis, or even of a grant across the board.

But what is now proposed is temporary and limited assistance to enable those newspapers which might otherwise have difficulty in finding the money to make one-off changes of a major nature. It would not require any new legislation or change of official policy, and is entirely in line with the assistance given to other industries under the Industry Act. The proposed financial help may be necessary to satisfy the unions that every effort is being made to pay adequate compensation to their redundant members. In these circumstances the Royal Commission's suggestions deserve further study, though both the newspapers and Parliament will want to keep a close watch on the potential threat of any type of assistance to the full vigour of press independence.

## PARTY'S LAST CHANCE OF REFORM

After three years in power the Italian Christian Democrat Party (C), whose congress opens today, is in a state of profound crisis. The first major blow to its self-confidence came in May 1974, when it failed spectacularly to obtain the repeal of a divorce law. The second was a result of the regional elections last June, in which the Communists increased their share of the vote by 51 per cent, and came within 2 per cent of overtaking the DC as the largest party.

The DC leaders appear exhausted by their long years of power, credited by omnipresent corruption, blinded to the need for renewal by vanity and by internal divisions. They are identified with status quo which to many Italians has become intolerable. Many people take it for granted that the Communist advance will continue: that in June Rome will fall to a Communist government, and that by the next general election (due in May next year) the Communists will be the largest party. Their aim to inclusion in the Government would then, it is supposed, come irresistible and the DC would have either to go into opposition or accept the "bitter compromise" proposed by Signor Berlinguer, becoming a junior partner in a Communist-led coalition. In all probability it would split.

The Italian Communists are clearly the lions of the hour. The press at home and abroad has them with new respect. The Government itself tends to be more and more consulting them informally in order to ensure a smooth passage for its legislation. The Socialist Party withdraws its support from the Government, demands a formal recognition of the Communist situation, and proclaims a polar front with the Communists in its long-term aim. Signor Berlinguer's protestations of moderate intent and independence from Moscow are hailed as a dawn of a new "Eurocommunism", even though he said the things almost word for word at the Moscow conference of European communist parties long ago as 1969.

Only the Americans seem untroubled and unresigned. Whether some of the communist parties of Western Europe are in fact independent of Moscow cannot be determined. Mr Kissinger in Boston last week, "when their electoral self-interest so overwhelmingly inclines with their claims." The Americans are not reassured by

Signor Berlinguer's promise that Italy will remain in Nato. Rather they wonder how they could explain to the American public the purpose of maintaining a supposedly anti-communist alliance with an Italy whose government was led or dominated by communists. A Dubček-style Italy might actually be more in need of protection against Soviet aggression than a straight-forwardly capitalist one—but would one have invited Mr Dubček to sit in on Nato's nuclear planning committee?

Whether the Communists in government would be good or bad for Italy, or even make little difference, no one can be sure. That their presence would pose acute problems for Nato, and also for the European Community, is quite certain. Those are problems which Nato and the Community will have to cope with if the Italian voters decide—as is their uncontested right—that the communist experiment is the only hope of a solution to their own domestic problems. But meanwhile we are entitled to hope against hope that the Christian Democrats, even at the eleventh hour, can yet offer a credible alternative.

That alternative can hardly be the "return to the traditional virtues of Christian Democracy" which Senator Fanfani offered to the electorate with such disastrous results last year. The ingredients of that recipe have been analysed by a reformist member of the party as "a mainly visceral anti-communism, with a little power, a little Church and a dash of law-and-order." The Italian Communist of today can no longer plausibly be portrayed as a man with a knife between his teeth, and the electorate in Italy—as in other Catholic countries—is increasingly unwilling to confuse religious and political loyalties, while the Church itself is increasingly unwilling to be identified with any one political party.

Senator Fanfani has been in eclipse since his unceremonious deposition from the secretary-generalship last July. His candidature for the succession, Signor Forlani, secured a good result for the party in the 1972 elections with a tough campaign against both Communists and Socialists. But at that time the need was to fend off the threat from the neo-fascist MSI. The same recipe today would hardly bait the swing to the left.

It seems that the majority of the party realizes this, and will throw its weight behind the acting secretary-general, Signor Zaccagnini, who since his

election as a stopgap last July has shown an unexpected reforming zeal. The congress may even decide to elect Signor Zaccagnini directly, rather than leave the decision to the party's national council as the present statutes require. This would give him greater authority. Even better would be the abolition of the party's internal "currents" whose disputes, largely incomprehensible to the outsider, have been one of the most acutely paralyzing factors.

These and other internal reforms, with the retirement of some of the tarnished figures who have dominated every Italian government that most people can remember, might lend some credibility to promises of reform in the country at large which otherwise will raise only a weary smile.

The key question is that of the majority which, after the elections, must replace the present minority Christian Democrat government. A return to the "centre" coalition of 1972-3 (Christian Democrats, Liberals, Social Democrats and Republicans) can hardly be envisaged. Its majority was too narrow then and might well be non-existent in the next parliament. The Social Democrats are in an even more advanced stage of disintegration than the Christian Democrats, the Republicans are too small to count, and the Liberals are too conservative to be convincing partners in a government pledged to reform.

The only workable non-communist majority remains that of Christian Democrats and Socialists combined, with or without the support of Republicans and Social Democrats. This of course was the "Centre-Left", whose obituary has been pronounced many times over in the last few months and most recently by the Socialist Party itself at its congress ten days ago. Yet Signor de Martino, the Socialist leader, was careful in his report to the congress not to rule out a renewal of the alliance unconditionally, emphasizing the need for a change of policies more than one of parties and recognizing the need "to take account of the conditions in which the problems of government will be posed". If the Christian Democrats can confound the pundits by emerging from the next elections still the largest party, that will be a major condition of which the Socialist Party will have to take account. It is that situation and that alliance that the Christian Democrats must still aim for.

## Teachers' retirement

From Mr H. G. Edwards  
Sir, In his letter on teachers' retirement (March 9), Mr MacKenzie makes an important point. Teachers who have spent years in the "front line" of the classroom and have given devoted service to their schools can, very understandably, run out of liveliness in their fifties. Because of the intense pressures of the job, this may apply doubly so to headmasters. There are two remedies needed, the first simple, the second complex:

1. Under present regulations, members of the teaching profession cannot draw their pension until they reach the age of 60. If this were reduced to 55 for retirement on a voluntary basis, it would be a great help.

2. The profession as a whole—I include all the ancillary services such as training colleges and administration—has no coherent structure. Transfer at age 50 or so into other branches of the education service is very difficult indeed, because the ancillary branches tend to become closed shops.  
Yours faithfully,  
H. G. EDWARDS,  
9 Upper Berkeley Place, Clifton, Bristol.

## Russia and Nato: military imbalance?

From Dr Christoph Bertram  
Sir, In his article "The West must defend itself while it still has a chance" (The Times, March 15, 1976) Lord Chalfont rightly draws attention to the massive military forces that the Soviet Union maintains, but also makes a number of judgments about the existing military balance in Europe which require additional discussion.

The continuing build-up of Soviet military capabilities should certainly be a matter of increasing concern to West European governments to particular. But the very real danger in putting forward an argument which claims that the existing situation is militarily hopeless for Nato, particularly since none of Lord Chalfont's proposed remedies—least of all the American nuclear power, more political integration in Western Europe, concern over the changing balance of power in Africa and the Far East—seem likely to make it less so.

In fact the military situation in Europe today is far from the hopeless one that is described. True, a successful surprise attack by the Warsaw Pact would by definition find the defence unprepared. But the conventional Nato defence at the moment is of a strength that would make a surprise attack which would have to rely only on the ready forces in East Germany a major risk, and one which the Soviet Union, with its traditional preference for over-insurance, is unlikely to want to take. And it would assume that the Soviet Union felt quite certain that the West would not use nuclear weapons.

This certainty, simply not attested by the analysis in the article as old as the Western Alliance, but just as no Western government can be sure that the American President will release nuclear weapons in time, so no Soviet government can be sure that he would not use them. The Soviet Union does not even mention American strategic nuclear forces.

To your leader of March 16 you have rightly pointed to some of the weaknesses of the report. What is, however, perhaps more important is that the kind of close analysis offered by Lord Chalfont's article finds such a ready and eager endorsement. If the Soviet military build-up is worrying, and it certainly is, we will scarcely serve our own interest, and the self-confidence required to pursue it, by pretending that the threat of nuclear war is not, and by emphasizing only Soviet strengths and only Western weaknesses.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER BERTRAM,  
Director,  
The International Institute for Strategic Studies,  
18 Adam Street, WC2,  
March 17.

## Laker's Skytrain

From Mr Christopher Brown  
Sir, Laker Airways' Skytrain having just been designated by Parliament approval of the White Paper on Civil Aviation Policy, I bring in your attention a new development in aviation which provides an interesting comparison.

British Airways currently seeks formal approval in Britain for scheduled service fares to several destinations in Portugal and Spain, notably Palma, at approximately one third the present level. Restrictions are minimal and evidently the new fares will be very successful. Like Skytrain, British approval will be by the CAA, any other similarities are purely coincidental.

1. Whereas Laker has been granted in several public hearings, there is no procedure for any public hearing of British Airways proposals.

2. Whereas Laker has had to expose for dissection all material considered remotely relevant to Skytrain, British Airways will not do so, and is not required to publish any economic justification or supporting information.

3. Whereas Laker has had to bend over backwards to prove traffic generation and disprove diversion arguments, plus accepting additional inhibitors, British Airways has no such strictures on its new services.

4. Whereas Skytrain has strictly controlled capacity and frequency, British Airways has no limitations as to capacity or frequency.

5. Whereas Laker has been accused of opening Pandora's Box by inviting a reciprocal United States response, British Airways will operate from inception in 50-50 pool with TAP and Iberia respectively.

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## From Mr Keith Kyle

Sir, In February, 1967, I visited British forces in Germany on behalf of BBC television and interviewed their commander, General Sir John Hackett, who was also Nato commander of Northern Army Group. In the course of the interview General Hackett stated publicly that if there was a large-scale Soviet attack using conventional weapons he would lose tactical control of the battle within 48 hours, unless authority had by then been given for him to use tactical nuclear weapons. I asked him whether he was confident that he would be given permission to use tactical nukes within 48 hours. He replied: "No, far from it. It is very difficult to suppose that there would be sufficient agreement between governments."

Before my tour began I received a Nato briefing. This included the following points: (i) far the political reasons the Germans insist on "forward strategy" which does not make much sense militarily; (ii) the effect of this is that the Russians would have been able to occupy all major positions before the allies could get there from their peace stations; (iii) there were 20,000 Soviet agents operating in West Germany.

Firstly, the latest fifteen years have seen the greatest decline, moral as well as economic, ever experienced by this country in modern times. Whilst the causes are varied and some quite outside the control of those who govern us, any comparison in ordinary domestic circumstances with other countries surely points to a major failure by our politicians. As Prime Minister for over half that period, Harold Wilson must shoulder a great proportion of the blame.

Secondly, the electorate in the UK now view politicians with suspicion, which is healthy, but with contempt, which is not. The veracity and integrity of all our politicians is now in doubt and Mr Wilson's whole manner of government combined with his frequent changes of direction, the Common Market and other major issues have been significantly responsible.

Yours faithfully,  
KEN HULBERT,  
Chairman, London Region,  
Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament  
Bullards Place, E2.

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## Resignation of Mr Wilson

From Miss Mary Southern  
Sir, Politicians are accustomed to criticism and abuse—much of it grossly unfair and based on ignorance. At this moment of Mr Wilson's resignation it might be as well for the British people to realize how fortunate they have been in recent years in the quality of their Prime Ministers.

The characteristic generosity of Mr Heath's tribute to Mr Wilson reminds us of the courtesy that still exists between party leaders, in contrast to the impression given by the media that these leaders are more generous public relations to all our politicians might be catastrophically beneficial.

Mr Wilson has served this country well. May he (and his admirable wife) enjoy many years of more peaceful activity away from Downing Street; and may his successor receive good will and loyalty in taking on his burden of responsibility.  
Yours sincerely,  
MARY SOUTHERN,  
Miramar Hotel,  
Beltinge,  
Hertfordshire,  
Keot.

From Mr H. A. Crichton-Miller  
Sir, The natural decency of the British is showing through in the eulogies to print and television over Mr Wilson's performance as Prime Minister. Without wishing to alter an endearing characteristic of the British or to deny Mr Wilson a long and happy retirement, two trends which have developed and flourished during the Wilson era should be clearly recognized.

Firstly, the last fifteen years have seen the greatest decline, moral as well as economic, ever experienced by this country in modern times. Whilst the causes are varied and some quite outside the control of those who govern us, any comparison in ordinary domestic circumstances with other countries surely points to a major failure by our politicians. As Prime Minister for over half that period, Harold Wilson must shoulder a great proportion of the blame.

Secondly, the electorate in the UK now view politicians with suspicion, which is healthy, but with contempt, which is not. The veracity and integrity of all our politicians is now in doubt and Mr Wilson's whole manner of government combined with his frequent changes of direction, the Common Market and other major issues have been significantly responsible.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STEWART COLLIS,  
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I suggest that historians will conclude that Mr Wilson was the dominant operator but no more; and it was entirely appropriate that he should leave the stage only a few days after his Government's defeat on its economic policy and following effective devaluation of the pound by yet another 5 per cent.

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. CRICHTON-MILLER,  
Meadow Way,  
Rotherfield Greys,  
Henley-on-Thames,  
March 17.

From Mr P. R. Davies  
Sir, In his press conference this afternoon the Prime Minister attributed the strength of the Deutschmark and the weakness of the pound to the supposed destruction of German industry during the Second World War and its re-equipment thanks to American loans.

Although this is one of the most widespread and persistent of British excuses for British failure, it has very little factual foundation. Only some 15 to 20 per cent of German industrial capacity was damaged beyond repair to the war, while West Germany received not more than one-third the amount of Marshall Aid received by Great Britain: 1.7 thousand million dollars in 2.7 thousand million. Indeed in the five years after the war Britain received in direct grants or loans from America, Canada, South Africa and the "Inter-Allied Monetary Fund" a total of no less than 8 thousand million dollars.

How we chose to spend this money is another matter, and one which Mr Wilson, as an economist, might care to investigate, now he has more time to himself.

Yours faithfully,  
CORRILLI BARNETT,  
Catharine House,  
East Carleton,  
Norwich,  
March 16.

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## The British Library

From Mr John Stewart Collis  
Sir, Who cares about "The British Library"? No one, really, except Learned Societies and organisations—especially as it does not exist. A great many people care a great deal about the British Museum Reading Room. How entirely typical it is of our day that the modern chairman of a board should call it "The Great Russell Street site". Another chairman, with some barmy idea of shifting the pictures elsewhere might as well refer to the National Gallery as "the Charing Cross Road site".

The British Museum Reading Room is as much part of London as the National Gallery. It is the greatest library in the world—and used by all nations. That circle under Panizzi's dome is a mighty

focus. It is steeped for over a hundred years in memories of the great who have used it—whether by Bernard Shaw in his days of penury and neglect, or by Marx and Lenin and Trotsky who made it quite a home from home as they planned to blow up homes or by the never turned away. It is the truest monument on the surface of the earth to an all-embracing intellectual and cultural responsibility shift a monument with a marvellous sphere from one place to another place. You can destroy it. It is inconceivable that any civilized human being could wish to do so. But it is all in the day's work for modern chairmen of boards.

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church, were expected to pledge themselves to some such system as "tithing". The Old Testament people of God gave a tenth of their wealth to the service of God. Why should the present day people of God be satisfied with anything less?

It is one of the responsibilities of the minister to teach his people in plain terms that if they are not willing to give substantially and realistically to God's work, then they had better start asking themselves if they are really Christians at all.

Nothing is an accepted custom in some churches. To such circles it is invariably the case that either the church nor individual Christians "lack any good thing".

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN SEDGWICK,  
Scunthorpe Baptist Church,  
Ashby Road,  
Scunthorpe,  
Lincolnshire,  
March 11.

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN SEDGWICK,  
Scunthorpe Baptist Church,  
Ashby Road,  
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March 11.

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN SEDGW















# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

For Saving  
Investing and  
House-Purchase  
**HALIFAX**  
BUILDING SOCIETY

For Saving  
Investing and  
House-Purchase  
**HALIFAX**  
BUILDING SOCIETY

### Germany spends heavily to hold narrow margins within margins

Peter Norman  
March 17

Despite denials from the German government that there is any revaluation of the German mark, the Federal Reserve Bank has today heavily intervened in the foreign exchange market to prevent the mark from falling out of the top of the market. The bank has bought \$18.35m at today's fixing. Denials from the Bonn government and the Federal Bank in Frankfurt that a revaluation of the German currency is being considered have no apparent effect on the foreign exchange market.

Throughout today the Belgian franc and the Danish crown were at their lower intervention points against the mark. The Federal Bank intervened to buy 61m Belgian francs and 3.1m Danish crowns at the fixing.

Bank rates raised: Belgium and Denmark raised their bank rates by 1 per cent. The rate in Belgium was raised from 6 per cent to 7 per cent. The rate in Denmark was raised from 6 per cent to 7 per cent.

The Belgian National Bank said it was raising bank rates to 7 per cent from 6 per cent, effective March 18. The rate was last changed on August 21, 1975, when it was reduced to 6 per cent from 6.5 per cent.

The Danish central bank raised its bank rate to 8 per cent from 7 per cent.

### African gold swap boost reserves

Nicholas Ashford  
March 17

South Africa has entered a swap agreement with the United Kingdom to boost its gold reserves. The agreement, which is the first of its kind, involves the exchange of gold for foreign reserves. Mr. De Jongh, governor of the South African Reserve Bank, announced today that the deal would increase the bank's gold reserves by about £200m (about £100m) and its foreign reserves by about £200m. This is the first time the country's reserves have exceeded the £100m mark since November 1973.

Under the terms of the agreement, the gold is sold spot and released forward. It is not on the private market, but reverts to the Reserve Bank termination of the agreement.

The swap arrangement is a short-term gold-backed loan which will give a badly needed boost to the country's reserves.

The bank's gold reserve holds are still valued at the old rate of 295 rand per ounce. However, analysts believe the swap arrangements were concluded at a price of 96 rand (\$110) an ounce. This is still some \$30 above the current free market price.

The effect of the deal is shown in the country's latest reserve figures. These indicate that gold holdings, which had fallen to about £86m while the foreign reserves increased by £286m during the week ended March 12.

The move was necessitated by South Africa's growing balance of payments problems and particularly the yawning deficit on current account. The payment of interest on foreign loans remains more or less in balance only because of an exceptionally high level of short-term capital inflows last year.

If these loans, which still have to be repaid, were deducted from the figure for South Africa's gold and foreign exchange reserves before the present deal was arranged, they would be inadequate to cover the cost of six weeks' imports. This is regarded as the minimum level to which reserves can be allowed to drop.

### Equities reflect uncertainty over political succession

Equity prices had another unsteady day in the wake of Mr. Wilson's resignation decision. The market was subdued, while equities opened fairly confidently, quickly showed signs of weakness.

One point the FT ordinary index was down by 5.5 points at 397.2. However, once again a combination of confidence and technical factors pushed prices towards the end of trading the index ended with a net rise of 2.8 on the day at 397.2.

The background of the market has been particularly anxious about the fate of a number of recent rights issues.

Indications last night, however, were that the underwriters were unlikely to be called on to take up any of the £20m Turner & Newall rights issue. Brokers to the issue were busy yesterday placing the two million shares believed not to have been subscribed.

More important, perhaps, is the fate of the Lloyds Bank £74m rights issue. Yesterday was the final day for applications, and rumours during late trading that the initial count was encouraging helped the share price to recover part of an earlier fall to the 210p issue price.

### KLEEMAN INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS

Year to 31st December	1975	1974
Turnover	£900	£600
Exports	6,966	5,857
Profit before tax	3,704	3,009
Less loan stock interest	2,010	1,393
	46	80

- \* Progress maintained throughout 1975. Each company had the busiest time in its history.
- \* Further substantial increase in turnover and profits.
- \* Maximum permitted dividend of 4.157p covered 5.7 times.
- \* Liquid position never stronger.

Derrick Kleeman - Chairman

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### SEC halts dealings in Maritime Fruit

By Peter Hill and  
Christopher Wilkins

Trading in shares and debentures of Maritime Fruit Carriers in the American over-the-counter market were suspended yesterday by the Securities and Exchange Commission after a request from the financially troubled shipping company.

The key to the situation lies in the protracted talks between MFC and its bankers over the renegotiation of the Israeli-American company's debt. At the last meeting a week ago MFC asked the banks to agree to accept a moratorium on loan repayments for a period thought to be about six months.

The banks are individually considering MFC's proposal and are due to meet company executives again in about a week's time. By then they are expected to have decided whether to approve the moratorium.

Until the outcome of the bank's deliberations it is clear that MFC's future is highly uncertain and this uncertainty is believed to be an important factor behind the company's request for the SEC to suspend trading in its shares.

The suspension also applies to one of the company's subsidiaries, Universal Gas and Oil, a Panamanian company based in Bermuda. According to the SEC, the suspension will apply until March 26. The request had been made because of a lack of public information about the financial condition and operation of the companies.

MFC is in default on part of a \$12m of bank debt and a further \$7.5m of supply and service debt. The company, through its many subsidiaries, is a major customer of the British shipbuilding industry, and already has options out of a total of 13 hulls by Swan Hunter Shipbuilders through a joint company it operated with JFC, which has been cancelled.

Earlier this year, when the full extent of the crisis at MFC began to unfold, there were top management changes and the company decided to move its American operations from New York to London.

Mr. H. Struve Hensel, the new chairman, said yesterday that the new management had set up a committee to put together an accurate picture of the company's finances. Final results of its affairs for last year are not expected to be published for another 45 to 60 days.

Due to the limited time since the new management assumed leadership of the company and the rapidly changing state of its financial affairs, an accurate picture of the company's finances cannot be determined until an audit, now in progress, is completed," he said.

The SEC is keeping a close eye on developments, and the British Government is also being informed of progress in view of the impact any further cancellations could have on employment.

Yesterday Mr. Cliff Baylis, director of the Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association, said that the cancellations so far amounted to 267,150 component tons, or 18.5 per cent of the total United Kingdom industry order book.

Mr. William Simon, the American Secretary of the Treasury, called today for important tax reforms to stimulate private investment in the shipbuilding industry.

He also asked on the general tax reform plans announced by President Ford earlier this year, and proposed that taxpayers should be allowed to deduct from income taxes up to \$1,500 (about 10 per cent of income) in common stocks.

Mr. Simon said at a hearing of the Senate Finance Committee that the Administration wanted to see reforms leading to an integration of corporate and personal taxes to eliminate double taxation.

It also wanted to abolish the 30 per cent securities tax on foreign investors and reduce capital gains tax.

These proposals are unlikely to get far this year, as the Administration has already large legislative programme make it increasingly improbable that major changes in tax laws will be passed by Congress.

According to informed sources it has already been decided in the Senate Finance Committee that big changes will have to be made in the Tax Reform Bill proposed last November by the House Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. John Methven, director-general of Fair Trading, will join the Confederation of British Industries, on June 14, in preparation for taking over from Sir Campbell Adamson as the CBI's director-general on July 1.

The CBI's council was told this yesterday at the monthly meeting.

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### Ferries gains Felixstowe voting control

By Our Financial Staff

European Ferries has won voting control of Felixstowe Dock and Railway. But it failed yesterday in an attempt to buy out the British Transport Docks Board's earlier offer for the port.

European Ferries has received acceptance from Felixstowe's shareholders from which, with its existing holdings, represents 81.2 per cent of the port's ordinary stock.

Its offer, which is at present worth 165p a share to holders of the Felixstowe stock, which European Ferries shares at 65p, has now become fully unconditional and will remain open until April 2. Dealings in the new European Ferries shares created by the bid will start on March 22.

Felixstowe's stockholders are to be paid an additional 15p cash per share if the parliamentary Bill promoted by the docks board to enable it to carry out its 150p a share cash offer for Felixstowe—which was agreed by the port's shareholders last November and which still has the recommendation of Felixstowe's board of directors—is withdrawn or defeated.

But a parliamentary committee called to rule upon objections to the docks board's Bill yesterday rejected European Ferries' call to have the Bill withdrawn pending a further vote by Felixstowe's shareholders.

### Teheran reports uranium finds

Teheran, March 17—Iran's atomic energy centre has revealed the discovery of rich uranium deposits in the country's northern and western regions.

The deposits were discovered in Shahroud, Damghan and Semnan, some 250 miles north-east of Teheran, as well as in provinces of Sistan and Baluchistan in the east and south-east.

### Europe 'regrets' US plan for steel

From Michael Harnsey  
Brussels, March 17

Trade relations between the European Community and the United States came under further strain today with the announcement from Washington that President Ford intends to take measures to protect America's specialty steel industry against competition from imports.

Under the President's decision "with profound regret" the European Commission said that "such measures are without any justification as far as Community exports to the United States are concerned".

The Commission would immediately review with the Council (of Ministers) all aspects of what is now a new situation.

President Ford has instructed Mr. Frederick Dent, his roving ambassador on trade matters, to negotiate orderly marketing agreements with America's main suppliers of specialty steel with the aim of limiting imports over a three-year period.

If these negotiations fail, the President will unilaterally proclaim import quotas for three years to take effect no later than June 14, 1976. These quotas would be set at overall levels comparable to those recommended by the United States International Trade Commission (USITC).

After investigation of complaints submitted in July of last year by the United Steel Workers of America and the Tool and Stainless Steel Industry Committee, the USITC decided last month that the American specialty steel industry was suffering serious damage from increased imports.

It found that during most of last year 25 per cent or more of the industry's workforce were laid off and less than half of its productive capacity utilized, causing a steep drop in profits. Imports rose slightly in tonnage terms and sharply increased their share of the American market.

In 1974, the last year for which complete figures are available, the EEC accounted for 19 per cent of American tool steel, and 21 per cent of stainless steel imports. The total value of imports of EEC specialty steels was \$33m (£20m).

### Simon plea for tax relief on shares

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, March 17

Mr. William Simon, the American Secretary of the Treasury, called today for important tax reforms to stimulate private investment in the shipbuilding industry.

He also asked on the general tax reform plans announced by President Ford earlier this year, and proposed that taxpayers should be allowed to deduct from income taxes up to \$1,500 (about 10 per cent of income) in common stocks.

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### July takeover for Mr Methven

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### Earnings stabilized in January

By Tim Congdon

Workers' earnings were stable in January, suggesting that the rapid increase in the first months of 1975 may be decelerating. However, in the first six months of the £6-a-week pay policy, which began last July, earnings were rising at an annual rate of 15 per cent.

Between December and January the index of average earnings, published yesterday by the Department of Employment, showed a slight increase. But it is possible that as more information becomes available, the January figure may be revised upward slightly, and the Department of Employment has given a caution against attaching too much importance to a single month's figures.

In the three months to January, earnings were rising at an annual rate of 15.7 per cent, mainly as a result of sharp increases in the index in November and December. Over both this period and the six months since the £6-a-week pay policy came into effect, earnings have been growing more quickly than the 10 per cent which is generally thought to be the policy's objective.

Slower earnings growth in coming months would allow the policy's objectives to be achieved, and it may be that the static January index will initiate a better trend. Both the pay policy and the severity of the recession should be containing wage inflation at present.

Basic weekly rates rose by more than 1 per cent in February. The Department of Employment says that the main contribution here was the third and final stage of the May, 1975, engineering industry national agreement.

In the first seven months of the pay policy the wage rates index rose by 11 per cent. A £6-a-week increase for all workers covered by the index would make it about 17 per cent higher this July than in July last year.

The behaviour of wage rates so far would, therefore, seem to be broadly consistent with the pay policy.

### How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
As Part Cement 1p to 155p	Leicester 3p to 79p
Asst & NZ 9p to 335p	Leith, C. E. 3p to 300p
Bell, A. 4p to 155p	Marshall's Univ 4p to 118p
Fluoro 2p to 350p	Shell 1p to 410p
Fisher, J. 3p to 79p	Slater Walker 1p to 24p
Gill & Duffus 10p to 155p	Tube Invest 3p to 335p
Lead Industries 3p to 135p	Weyburn Eng 3p to 620p
Barclays 7p to 270p	Hawker Siddeley 4p to 412p
Bell Am 15p to 725p	Midland Bank 15p to 215p
Broken Hill 2p to 147p	Northolt 6p to 44p
Courts 1p to 155p	Oil Explor 6p to 65p
GEC 2p to 71p	Trust Houses 8p to 103p
Grand Met 35p to 400p	Union Corp 20p to 310p

Stirling rose 90 points to £1,920. The "effective devaluation" rate was 33.6 per cent. Gold rose \$1.25 an ounce to close at \$134.00.

SDR-6 was 1.15011 on Wednesday while SDR-6 was 0.600736. Commodities: Most prices went down. Sugar's index was at 1286.7 (previous 1283.4).

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### MPs told of Iran quest for Chrysler substitute

By Edward Townsend

Iran National, the company whose contract to buy cars from Chrysler UK was one of the main reasons for the British Government's rescue of the motor group, had searched for several years outside Britain for an alternative source, it was revealed yesterday.

Mr. Don Lander, the Chrysler UK managing director, spent two years trying to persuade the Iranians not to go elsewhere for their cars.

Although Chrysler has sold many cars to the Iranian Government, the chief contract covers the supply until 1980 of Hummers in kit form, which are assembled locally.

Apart from commercial considerations, the Government, keen to foster trade with Iran, would have faced particular embarrassment had a big contract with a British company failed because of lack of state support.

Answering questions at the inquiry being conducted by the House of Commons Select Committee of the Commons Expenditure Committee, Mr. Gilbert Hunt, Chrysler UK's chairman, said that had the company been allowed to go out of the country, Iran National would have been biased against Britain for a new source.

Over the period of the contract from 1971, a period in which industrial relations were deteriorating, Iran National and the Iranian Government became increasingly disillusioned with the abilities of the United Kingdom to supply anything, Mr. Hunt said.

This was the reason why the Iranians went to the Chrysler Corporation in America for a secondary agreement allowing them to have another source "in case of distress".

At the time, Mr. Hunt said, a number of causes, including strikes at suppliers' plants, meant that the company was shipping incomplete kits to Iran and spending more money on air freighting the remaining parts later.

The Iranians' disillusionment was such, he said, that had they been totally frustrated by developments and in 1973 made two acquisitions for £18.6m. But property values have fallen and MBPI's own share price has consistently stood at a big discount to the asset value.

The present asset value of 75p a share, which puts a worth on the company of £38m, compares with a book value last August of 94p a share.

At the same time, the existence of the minority shareholding in MBPI's ability to use MBPI's properties as security for group debt. As a result, Mr. Hunt's directors say they have decided it would be in the interests of both companies that MBPI should revert to being wholly-owned. The deal is to be effected by means of a scheme of arrangement under section 206 of the Companies Act, 1948.

MBPI, which has been advised by Samuel Montagu, is supporting the bid. Mr. R. M. Burton and Mr. Ladislav Rice, who are directors of both companies, have not taken part in the talks leading to the offer.

For the six months to the end of February, MBPI made a profit before tax of £1,98m, compared to £39,000 in the previous comparable period and £1.5m for the whole of 1974-75.

### 'Better relations' at Leyland

By Clifford Webb

Shop stewards and management at Leyland Cars yesterday suggested that the improved labour relations achieved in the company's recovery plans.

Three further strikes are continuing, but both sides have expressed hopes that the better understanding reached by each side's problems resulting from the new participation committees will prevent them deteriorating into long-drawn-out battles.

Although the participation committees are quite independent of the company's disputes machinery, the same shop stewards are frequently involved in both.

Marina production was resumed at Cowley yesterday with the recall of 1,000 assembly workers. Fifty internal truck drivers on strike over work assignments agreed to return to allow further talks to take place.

At Triumph Coventry shop stewards representing 2,400 men on strike agreed to lift sanctions imposed in support of a pay claim which the Department of Employment has ruled to be in breach of the pay code.

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### Burton in property offshoot bid

By Our Financial Staff

Burton Group is to buy back the part of its property subsidiary, Montague Burton Property Investments, which is floated off to shareholders in November, 1972.

The bid is for the outstanding 5.25 million shares, equivalent to 13 per cent of MBPI's equity, at a price of 75p a share. This is equivalent to the underlying asset value of the shares, and compares with a stock market price last night of 46p. Overall the deal will involve a cash consideration of £3.9m.

The history of MBPI represents a considerable disappointment for Burton. It was decided to float the company, which essentially comprised a number of Burton's own property interests, on the assumption that the underlying value of the properties had not been fully reflected in the parent's share price.

Since then MBPI has become involved in a number of developments and in 1973 made two acquisitions for £18.6m. But property values have fallen and MBPI's own share price has consistently stood at a big discount to the asset value.

The present asset value of 75p a share, which puts a worth on the company of £38m, compares with a book value last August of 94p a share.

At the same time, the existence of the minority shareholding in MBPI's ability to use MBPI's properties as security for group debt. As a result, Mr. Hunt's directors say they have decided it would be in the interests of both companies that MBPI should revert to being wholly-owned. The deal is to be effected by means of a scheme of arrangement under section 206 of the Companies Act, 1948.

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For the six months to the end of February, MBPI made a profit before tax of £1,98m, compared to £39,000 in the previous comparable period and £1.5m for the whole of 1974-75.

### Wymenham hope for display code at garages

Mr. Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Affairs, said yesterday in a written Commons reply that the Government was hopeful of reaching agreement with the major oil companies on a voluntary code of practice for the display of petrol prices at filling stations.

He said he had discussed with the oil companies and the Motor Agents' Association the need for the net cash price of petrol to be made clearly visible to motorists on the road. In the meantime he advised motorists to buy petrol only from garages where they could see the prices clearly displayed.

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# Brooke Bond and the sterling factor



In September at the time of the interim figures and sale of the Volkswagen franchise, it had looked as if 1975 was going to be the year when the company's trading would be beppy to bold profits and strengthen its balance sheet. Certainly, it has achieved the latter, but it has suffered the former in a much better than expected second half performance too.

While the recovery at VW was the main factor in keeping the group pre-tax profit slightly ahead in the opening six months, its impact on the bottom line in September will have been very much smaller in a second half advance in pre-interest profits of 20 per cent

Inter-European Property, Holdings, which I mentioned in January when the shares were 47½p, has been attracting an unusual amount of institutional investment interest and of JP Morgan's interest. The major sale in 1974-75 was a major sale very close to the company has now disposed of the bulk of his holding, and the IPH shares have gone ahead on speculation. The response of the French properties. The accounts fully justify this.

Now that IPH has bought out Zoper Kemnitz & Milbourn's 25 per cent interest in the Geneva development now Paris it will bring in 100 per cent of the rent roll from the buildings, currently running at an index-linked rent roll of 17½m French francs a year. On the basis of January 1976, the French franc is worth 195frs to the pound, so only one of the three buildings in Paris the French portfolio alone is worth 90p a share.

On the basis of historically low valuations of IPH, the Kingsdown properties this boosts net assets per share to over 130p. Adding in a representative random valuation of United Kingdom properties, and applying this basis to the Kingsdown domestic portfolio, group net assets rise to near 150p a share.

At 62½p, yielding 5½ per cent and given confident prediction from the chairman, Mr Laurie Marsh, that the "uninterrupted growth year by year from now on" the shares still look undervalued.

More important have been the good performances from a wide range of the group's divisions, though electrical wholesaling, run into a demand from industry in the second half and the agricultural and hostery divisions both reported substantially reduced sales.

Demand in electrical wholesaling has, however, proved better since the year end, while the builders' merchandising division has been braver, too. The group's performance will depend on how soon the economy starts to pick-up, but things seem to be particularly optimistic at this stage about prospects for engineering and insurance.

On the balance sheet front, Tilling has produced an operating cash surplus of \$8m, which, together with new realizations, has allowed the company (less provisions for contingencies and other charges) and the refinancing of £14m of debt on a medium-term footing, has reduced short-term borrowings by some £27m; in other words, the ratio of debt to capitalization, the ratio of debt to cash, has been dropped from 34 to 29 per cent.

But while Tilling's performance looks impressive in the context of 1975 conditions, it is hard to see much of a case for a further increase in the company's shares at 86p on an introductory basis, and a 100 p/p/e ratio of 9.3 and yield of 5.7 per cent.

**Final - 1975 (£174):**  
Capitalization: £142m  
Sales: £826m (£251m)  
Profit: £130m (£33m)  
Earnings per share: 5.2p (£1.5p)  
Dividend per share: 4.85p (3.25p)

## Hepworth Ceramic

### Efficiency benefits

There is an Alice in Wonderland like quality about the way in which profits continue to rise at Hepworth Ceramic as activity falls. For all that the improvement is real enough with second half profits last year showing a 92 per cent jump after a 38 per cent gain at the interim.

This year's outcome—62 per cent—was a far cry from the outside, but it was better than the market, suggesting that the shares held against the market trend yesterday with a 4p rise in 474p.

Hepworth now claims to have fully pruned back its activity in the steel sector in response to the demand for clay pipes from the construction industry and for refractories 'from the steel industry. Total manufacturing capacity is now down to around 65 per cent of peak levels of a year ago. The company, which is operating at 100 per cent capacity and hence the dramatic leap in margins, evident from the 1987-88 turnover increased by only 17 per cent even in value terms last year.

So, Hepworth can face the current year with reasonable confidence of equalling last year's profit even at present levels of activity. It may not have to be content with around these levels for though the steel industry is showing some spotted signs of revival, United Kingdom construction industry demand is still weak.

The current year will benefit from the absence of write-offs above the line and from the interest implications of the fact that the accounts will probably show a 1988-89 borrowing of £4.4m, borrowing to a £4m set cash position. An historic p/e of 71 probably still leaves something to go for in the shares. The value is 63 p per cent.

1987-88  
Capitalization: £4.1m  
Sales £137.4M (£117.6m)  
Pre-tax profits £125.8M (£7.9m)  
Earnings per share 6.33p (3.76p)  
Dividend gross 2.58p (2.58p)

The car makers are stouping  
with safe forecasts this month  
with unusual concern.

General is a key indicator. So far  
this year it's been a whole and  
a good month will be widely in-  
terpreted as the start of the  
long road back to profits attention  
the directors of the past seven  
years.

Which their first 10-day  
remains already in the 59,000-ones  
new cars registered points to a  
March total of between 150,000  
and 160,000. The company's  
with 117,000 in March less than  
year, and is in line with a  
year-end total of 1,200,000, of  
1,300,000.

There may not be a very im-  
pressive increase on last year's

1,190,600, but it does point to a steady upward trend and that, to an industry which saw more than half its production capacity rescued by government intervention last year, is no means from heaven.

As Tracy Eddien, chairman and managing director of Ford Britain—the most consistently profitable motor manufacturer in the country—said recently: "Britain came within an ace of hyper-inflation and industrial collapse. Companies halted production over half the motor industry went under."

There was an enormous

But this year, Ford's car factories are operating at 75 percent of their installed capacity. As installed capacity is a purely paper figure, seldom achieved in practice, Ford is operating 75 per cent below its potential. This is the result of its British competitors.

In fact, Ford is working half force with its present labour force of 66,000 and can obtain further increases in production without any further investment in the past two years it has cut its pay roll by only 4,000 and nearly half those were staffs. But with the cooperation of the union it has substantially raised its overheads, polished its cars and the big doors, and numbers of new workers could

produce impressive increases.

There has also been a promising improvement in productivity per man. It is an encouraging sign, and indicates that the Central Policy Review Staff report on "The future of the British Motor Industry" based its comparisons between continental productivity and British productivity on a fair basis. Germany, Belgium and British plants.

These showed that, output per man in Rover's engine plant here is not widely known, however, is that since these comparisons were made in June last year, Ford's Richland plant have halved the productivity gap.

The result is that Ford is now reported to be operating quite profitably—some informed sources suggest, very profitably.

Leyland Cars is a different picture. Under the close scrutiny of the National Enterprise Board, Derek Whittaker, Leyland Cars managing director, is crying out for more obstacles on too many fronts.

He must improve the day-to-day running of his factories and at the same time speed up long delayed but urgently needed changes in the company. These cannot be achieved without interfering with the other.

But the proliferation of small, under-utilized, uneconomic plants, particularly in the British market, is a crying need for a clean sweeping approach. At least, six plants are believed to be earmarked for closure, most of them in the Rover operation.

## for car makers

A British Leyland Mini production line: the company is awaiting the spring and summer sales periods with greatly increased confidence.

Similarly the sales and marketing set-up headed by Keith Hopkins is still solid, but not so many stars. There are plans to establish an integrated department to be based in its own office block at Redditch, about 12 miles from Longbridge, but this appears to have been shelved for the time being.

The massive injection of government finance has enabled Leyland to think of an energy plan, money to put it into a truly competitive position by the 1980s. But actual progress is being frustrated by the continuing lack of an integrated engineering and development department.

There are still too many petty-minded empire defenders in the former Austin, Morris, Triumph and Rover engineering areas to enable Spencer King, the new head of the engineering and product planning division, to put their undisciplined attitudes to rest.

To carry through such far-reaching and controversial measures Mr Whitaker must have the cooperation of the unions. This alone is reason enough why the company's new participation machinery must be made to work.

But the picture is not all gloom. There has been progress. In October Leyland Cars was achieving only 85 per cent of a much reduced production programme agreed by the unions by Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, and repeated by Mr Whitaker, there was a period of uneasy industrial peace.

By February, the factories

1977 before Vauxhall can produce enough new and facelifted models to provide sufficient work for its United Kingdom factories.

Despite the Government's £162m rescue Chrysler's position remains finely balanced. There are still many to whom the industry who argue that the new firm is a force in its own right, but simply an extension of Chrysler's profitable French subsidiary, Simca.

Last month Chrysler's United Kingdom market share was only 7.7 per cent, compared with 7.6 per cent in February 1975. Of the 5,091 cars sold nearly half were imported from Simcas.

The Simca share of

were up to 94 per cent of the planned programme, which had itself been increased by 18 per cent. Put another way, there had been a very promising 23 per cent improvement since October.

Looking more relaxed than they have been for months Leyland executives began to talk of weekly progress leading to a much happier stock position for the all-important spring and summer sales periods.

At Tuesday's annual meeting Sir Robert Clark, acting chairman, reported that the group had broken even in the five months to the end of February, and some executives are predicting a blim at profits being made in some sectors.

Now all that is threatened by yet another spate of strikes affecting Land Rover and Range Rover production and the

Chrysler's sales will continue to increase until the modification of the Land Rover is launched in August. At the same time the Ryton plant will switch from Avengers assembly of the Simca Alpine. But it will be at least another year before the Alpine's British version is ready to receive 50 per cent necessary before it can be listed as a domestic product.

The big test of Chrysler's staying power will come next year when the firm's new range goes into production at Luton. Small cars must be produced in large volume if they are to be competitively priced and sell at reasonable profit levels. And it is the big battalions which have been at the heart of Chrysler U.K.'s problems for the past 10 years.

Another question mark relates to the level of local production. The firm has published firm small car

## Twelve of one and half a dozen of the other

When Mr Harold Wilson was elected leader of the Labour Party he rapidly adopted the slogan "12 wasted years" as the basis of a concerted onslaught on the then Conservative government led by Mr Alec Douglas-Home. Two years later, after Sir Alec Douglas-Home had replaced Mr Macmillan, the slogan became "13 wasted years", on which basis Mr Wilson just won the election of October 1963.

Since then Mr Wilson has remained the dominant political figure in British government, having been Prime Minister for the whole of the period. It is, therefore, irrelevant to compare the record of the 12 "wasted" years (1951-63) with the record, as yet incomplete, of the 12 years (1963-75) of Mr Wilson's preeminence.

depends on whether a fixed exchange rate policy is justifiably in operation.

During the 12 "wasted" years, the average standard of living, measured by real personal disposable income divided by the United Kingdom population, rose by two fifths (40 per cent) from the 12 "Wilson" years it rose by a third (33.4 per cent), again with the periods chosen tending to flatter the later period.

During the 12 "wasted" years the population of the United Kingdom rose by 6.5 per cent (or 3,262,000). During the 12 "Wilson" years it rose by 4.5 per cent (or by 2,409,000). During the 12 "wasted" years the birth rate rose from about 3000.00 live births in 1951 to 3900.00 live births in 1963. In 1975 it has fallen back to barely 3000.00

It would certainly be wrong to exonerate the Wilsons wholly or primarily responsible for any differences in national economic performance. It would quite possibly be wrong to suggest that the Wilsons are responsible, although if he was not, it casts rather a depressing light on the efficacy of 30 years of what are commonly and justly regarded as the most politically successful years of any leader this century.

But at least the facts serve as a useful prelude to any discussion of the Wilson years, a discussion which will be as long as historians are interested in the period and have breath to utter upon it. Since myths tend to be born from the still warm embers of contemporary history and to persist almost indefinitely thereafter, initial impressions cannot be entirely dismissed as

live births.

During the 12 "wasted" years public authorities built 2,047,500 houses (or flats) at an average of 170,600 a year. During the 12 "Wilson" years they built 1,942,000 at an average of 161,900 a year. On the other hand private sector houses and flat building achieved much more in the second period, although the

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**Peter Jay**

**Economics Editor**

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It was, moreover, Mr Wilson himself who has been following in the steps of Hugh Gaitskell—to establish economic policy as the central issue of British politics. Nor did he seek to disguise his qualifications as a graduate of the London School of Economics, a professional statistician. Those who live by the figures must be willing, at last partly, to be judged by the figures.

During the 12 "wasted" years national output, as measured by the gross domestic product, rose 140 per cent (based on output data), rose in real terms by a third (34.2 per cent). During the 12 "Wilson" years it rose by slightly less (31.7 per cent). The comparison is slightly unfair, the latter period because, while both periods and in recession years, the first began in a boom year.

rate of completions, which rose from 126,000 in 1951 to 174,900 in 1956, peaked at 218,100 in 1964 and then fell back to 150,200 in 1975.

During the 12 "wasted" years Britain's balance of payments (current account) was in surplus for nine years and in deficit for three. The net surplus over the period was £1,155m, valued at the prices ruling at the time. During the 12 "Wilson" years the balance of payments was in surplus for six years and in significant deficit for six. The net deficit over the period being £4,700m at the prices ruling at the time (of which £3,700m occurred in 1974).

During the 12 "wasted" years the dollar price of the pound stood at £1.88, giving a two pence devaluation in 1964. During the 12 "Wilson" years it fell from

**A marked upward tendency in peak rates of unemployment**

"During the 12 'wasted' years unemployment (Great Britain wholly unemployed) averaged 34.500. During the 12 'Wilson' years it averaged 52.80 to \$2.02 at the end of last year.

And so one could go on. No particular selection of economic and other statistics will prove anything definitively to everyone. Different series could be chosen; and those that have been chosen could doubtless be changed. They have here been selected in advance of working out the results and on the basis of what seemed intuitively natural to include in such a brief list.

Nor is it self-evident that even all the comparisons given

582,200. Throughout both periods there was a marked upward tendency in the peak rates of unemployment reached at comparable moments in the economic cycle: the first period from a recession level of 328,700 for the year 1952 to 520,600 in 1963; and in the second period from 1963's 520,600 to 1973's 959,600. The index appears to have been accelerating.

During the 12 "wasted" years retail prices of all items covered by the official index rose by half (49.9 per cent). During the 12 "wasteful" years the cost of living as fast (by 149.5 per cent).

It can be said that the post-1951 era benefited greatly from the backwash from the great Korean war world commodity price boom and that 1975 was helped further by a rise in British domestic costs and prices.

There are unattractive features about the 1951-63 period. Many would welcome the fall in the rate and the slower rise in the population. Some would say that the lower rate of public housing completions was only common sense and would welcome the greater role played by private builders.

A few would take satisfaction, from the slower growth in national output and the more moderate rise in living standards (even after allowing for the slower growth in population). But almost none could deny that the 12 years had indeed those others which would attract even fewer apologists, were what were generally associated with Mr Wilson's policies at the outset of his career as a party leader.

It will be for historians to decide whether the moral of the tale, when it is more fully and discriminatingly told, is that Mr

of the 1974 world oil and commodity price boom. It can, however, also be said that the degree to which movements in import prices are a legitimate excuse for domestic price increases is very much disputed by economists and primarily

## Business Diary: Coal field • Clearing the decks

all the speculation over access to the chairmanships British Rail and the British Coal Corporation, one very urgent state job seems to have been entirely overlooked. Sir Derek Ezra, a member of the Transport and General Board, in which wearsome guard Sir Derek Ezra has hitherto toiled for nearly five years. His first term of office was at the end of June, 1974, and since then he has published colleagues in an exclusive club of state industry chairmen.

Business Diary can disclose that Sir Derek has not yet been asked to serve a second term there is much perturbation in Westminster, the MCB head-quarters. Tony Benn, the army Secretary, is perhaps egocentric in the Labour leadership race to give the matter much immediate interest. The recently constituted Transport and General Board, which is to run the industry over Sir Derek's obedient style of management.

The difficulty is that the years, not renowned for their licence, want to know if he is to be appointed for a further 5 years. They need to know makes sure that they address envelope to the right man. The article of the chairman of the NCB, their annual conference in July, and with all delays, being what they are these days, they need to get it letter off pretty quickly.

At a recent joint consultative meeting, Sir Derek, aged 57, was chaffed about his future by the president of the Coalfield's president John Goss. "He saved me from a smile, I gave no hint, whereupon the union miners' leader Walter Atwood moved "re-election" of the chairman, apparently misunderstanding the nature of the politics behind such key appointments.

It has been bruited that the job could go to Gormley himself and there is a precedent for NUM poachers turning gamekeeper. Sir James Bowman, area secretary of the Northumberland miners and their union's national president, was chairman of the NCB between 1956 and 1961. He was regarded even by management—as "very successful and popular."

Whatever the choice, it plainly needs to be made quickly.

# Bridge partners

When Captain Sir David Tibbits took the floor at the Trinity House meeting yesterday it was indeed—as Business Diary had earlier suggested—presented an alternative to Penryn's proposed Central Pilgrage Authority.

Sir David, the outgoing deputy master of Trinity House, introduced counter-proposals for a pilgrate advisory board. In operating under Trinity House auspices this would both save the expense of a new bureaucracy and protect or even extend Trinity House's status as the country's principal pilgrate authority.

Business Diary had said as much on Tuesday, while pointing out that the original proposals—which envisaged the hand-over to the new board of Trinity House's pilgrate functions—were "in essence Sir David's as well as the Trade Secretary's".

Sir David, who hands over next month to Captain Miles Wingate, bad sat on the steering committee which produced the proposals and which reported a clear minority report. But Sir Miles Wingate said that the committee's aims would best be achieved by making use of the

present administration," especially our own."

All pilotes and other interested parties, including the Admiralty, the Trade and Fisheries Departments and the Admiralty, are now to join in forming the advisory board, he said. "So often these days we see bureaucracy take the reins and lose the common touch," he said. "The helm and wisdom 'under' their hatches" where marine pilgrimage is concerned."

So far so good, but it soon became apparent at yesterday's meeting that the Admiralty, by no means all Trinity House pilotes are ready to scupper Shore's plan.

One of the pilotes present, Daniel McMillan, vice-chairman of the United Kingdom Pilotes Association, said that the Trinity House's present good intentions might have been more favourably received had they not been preceded by undue pressure.


"Derrick" Barrow, Portsmouth Harbour's sole pilot, said that some pilotes were looking more favourably at the Shore plan than they might have in sadder times when business was so bad. A central feature of the plan is to oblige many more vessels than

before to take on a public

## Home-coming

Keith Holloway, deputy chairman and marketing director of Schweppes, has found a home for his mixer drinks advertising only three weeks after the row which ended in J. Walter Thompson unceremoniously resigning the business. The account, which spends about £1m a year, goes to the recently merged, London and Glasgow-based company, the Communications section of which was appointed to handle Schweppes 7-UP soft drink advertising shortly before the merger.

The move is in a sense a



**Sir Hugh Linstead.**

homecoming for Schweppes mixers, for some 20 years or so ago Gerlad Compton was responsible for the old "Schweppesness" theme subsequently superseded by the famous "Secret of Schhh... Weppes". It is particularly welcomed by Kenneth Gill, the new agency's joint chairman who personally worked on the account first time round.

Holmwood, disrupts one of

many with JWT since they took over the business in 1972, was about their ideas for this year's campaign. Understandably, both parties are sensitive about what exactly these ideas were. The new agency is equally reticent to communicate, but presumably for different reasons about what their plans are. The only inkling which Tim Bell, the managing director, will give is that the campaign is due to appear in early December. The names are not Sir William Frazer, for many years the "You-know-who" man identified with the products. Schweppes mixers advertising has probably won more awards in the business than

any other and has one of the largest appropriations going for a single brand.

## A farrier cry

It was in 1356 that the Lord Mayor summoned the farriers of the City of London to complain about "the many offences and dangers" committed by people "not wise therein" who kept forges in the City and "intermeddled with works of farriery."

The Mayor ordered two men "sufficient and best knowing" to be sworn in as wardens who would govern this trade, that of putting the feet of horses and ponies and of fitting the appropriate shoe.

It is only this year, however, and six centuries on, that this Mayor, Sir John West, of the Company of Farriers or any body else has come within sight of controlling these "offence and dangers".

Sir Hugh Lindsay, a former Master of the Farriers and chairman of the new Farriers' Registration Council, hopes that by the end of the summer most of the country's farriers, whether professional or amateur, qualified or just experienced, will be registered.

Last year the Farriers' company put their idea into effect and succeeded in seeing through, with the assistance of Miceboates, the Tory who sits for Petersfield, a Farriers (Registration) Act.

Just how many farriers there are is anybody's guess, but the compulsory registration provisions of the act.

John Adams, the registrar of the new council, says he sent out about 2,100 letters joggling farriers' elbows, of which only 100 could not be marked "dead" or "not known".

as it does Chrysler.

**NOTICE OF ISSUE**  
Application has been made to the Registrar of Companies for the issue of the following prospectus:

**HARTLE**  
(Limited)  
**OFFER**

**3 per cent. 1**  
(which will be repaid)  
**Minimum**

This Stock is an investment and by paragraph 10 (as amended) of the Companies Act, 1947, and by paragraph 10 (as amended) of the Companies Act, 1960, is exempt from the provisions of the Companies Act, 1947, and the Companies Act, 1960, relating to the prospectus of companies. Under the Capital of the Company was £100,000. The Company was formed in the year 1972.

The dividends on this stock are payable at the rate of 3 per cent. of the nominal value of the stock, and are subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, 1947, and the Companies Act, 1960, relating to the payment of dividends. The dividends are payable at the rate of 3 per cent. of the nominal value of the stock, and are subject to the provisions of the Companies Act, 1947, and the Companies Act, 1960, relating to the payment of dividends.

Tenders for the Stock and must be accompanied by the sum of £100,000 and sent in a sealed envelope to P.O. Box No. 72, Drogheda, Co. Dublin, Ireland, by Tuesday, 23rd March, 1973. Monday, 26th April, 1973.

Copies of the Prospectus and Forms of Tender may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar of Companies, 11, Upper Malet Street, London, W.C.2, or from the Offices of the Company, 11, Upper Malet Street, London, W.C.2.

by economists and primarily decades of British history.

to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undermentioned  
Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

# **POOLS WATER COMPANY**

*incorporated in England by Special Act of Parliament in 1845*

## **FOR SALE BY TENDER OF £21,000,000**

### **Redeemable Preference Stock, 1981**

mature for redemption at par on 31st March, 1981.)

**Net Price of Issue—£99 per £100 Stock**

Investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act, 1961  
mandated in its application to the Company of Part II of the First  
Schedule to that Act, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary  
Stock of 4 per cent. but, by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies)  
Act, 1962, reduced to 2.5 per cent. in relation to dividends paid during any  
interim period.

Stock will be at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum without deduction  
of income tax system, the present associated tax credit at the rate of  
imposed by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1975 (35/65ths of the distribu-  
tion) at 13 1/3ths per cent. per annum.

Stock must be applied on the Form of Tender supplied with the Prospectus  
and by a deposit of £10 per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for  
payable to National Westminster Bank Limited, New Issues Department,  
1, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3DF, marked "Water Stock", so as to be received not later than 11 a.m. on  
15th March 1981. The balance of the purchase money to be paid on or before  
15th March 1981, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and  
accepted:—

**Seymour, Pierce & Co.,**  
10, Old Jewry, London, EC2R 3EA.

**National Westminster Bank Limited,**  
46 Church Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7EH  
of the Company at 3, Lancaster Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8LW.

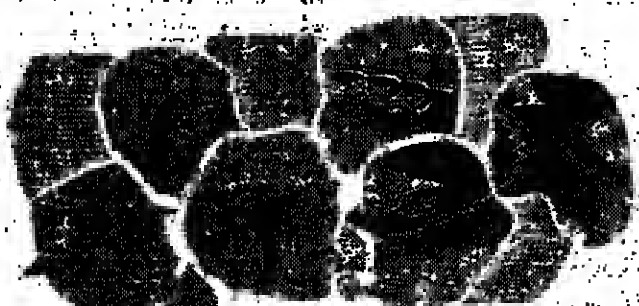






# Your company is judged by the company it keeps.

Although money is our business—  
we never lose sight  
of people



Customers, staff, shareholders—they're all important to us.

1975	1974
Profit before tax	£10,000
Profit after tax	£7,500
Dividends	£5,000
Reserves	£2,500
Assets	£100,000
Liabilities	£90,000
Equity	£10,000

National and  
Commercial  
Banking Group



The Royal Bank of  
Scotland Limited  
WILLIAMS & GILBERT  
BANK LIMITED

National and Commercial Banking Group  
December 12, 1975.

Our is a one-word history—progress

**Bowring**

Profit before tax

Profit after tax

Dividends

Reserves

Assets

Liabilities

Equity

C.T. Bowring & Co. Ltd.

C.T. Bowring & Co. Ltd. October 10, 1975.

The Group's diversity and  
spread are invaluable assets in  
these present times.

From the Chairman's Statement to shareholders of Inchcape & Co. Limited  
on the year ending March 31, 1975.

Profit before tax

Profit after tax

Dividends

Reserves

Assets

Liabilities

Equity

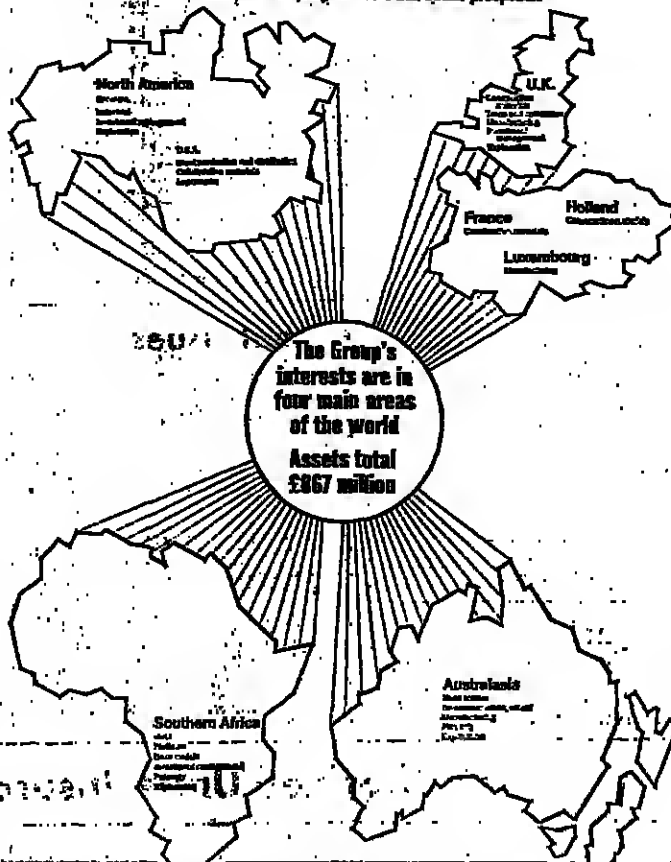
**Inchcape**  
& Co. Limited

Inchcape & Co. Ltd. August 14, 1975.

## Gold Fields

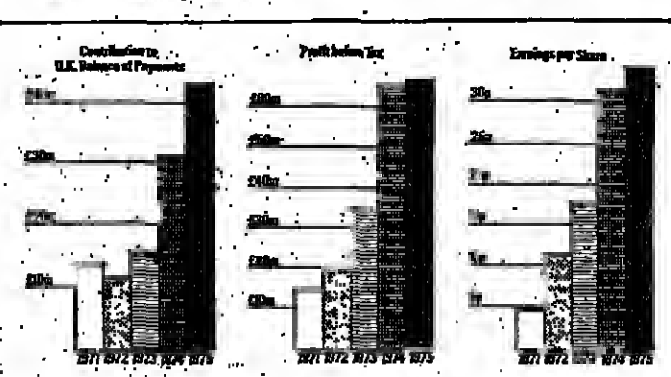
Highlights from Mr. Donald McCall's Statement for 1975

Our contribution to the U.K. balance of payments increased substantially to \$45 million. The income received from our interests overseas has been a direct help to investment and employment in Britain. We must expect a decline this year, but in the medium and long term, we do not think the Company has ever had better prospects.



The Group's  
interests are in  
four main areas  
of the world  
Assets total  
£267 million

SALEABLE FEATURES OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE GROUP	1975	1974
Profit before tax	£10,000	£7,500
Profit after tax	£7,500	£5,000
Dividends	£5,000	£2,500
Reserves	£2,500	£1,000
Assets	£100,000	£90,000
Liabilities	£90,000	£80,000
Equity	£10,000	£10,000



Consolidated Gold Fields Limited

If you would like a copy of the Report and Accounts and the full text of the Chairman's Statement please write to the Company's Registered Office, 49 Moorgate, London, EC2R 6BQ.

Consolidated Gold Fields Ltd. November 26, 1975.

## Jardines: Continued growth.

Operational and geographical diversification  
Ends the effects of severe recession  
in the first half of 1975

Jardine Matheson & Co. Ltd.  
October 29, 1975.

Operational and geographical diversification  
Ends the effects of severe recession  
in the first half of 1975

SAINT-GOBAIN-PONT-A-MOUSSEON

Saint-Gobain-Pont-à-Mousson  
November 6, 1975.

"We have come through  
with flying colours.  
We shall do so again"

By David Peck, our Group Chairman

**GEN AT RECORD LEVELS**

**GEN OUR BUSINESS**

**GEN WORLD WIDE**

**Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd.**

Guest Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd. May 14, 1975.

Realistic...  
determined

**B.O.C. International Ltd.**

B.O.C. International Ltd.  
March 3, 1975.

Real growth

**A.A.H. Ltd.**

A.A.H. Ltd.  
September 26, 1975.

Last year, Mr. Cube  
made record profits.

**Who benefits?**

**Tate & Lyle**

Tate & Lyle. January 25, 1975.

Didn't he do well!

**Tate & Lyle**

Tate & Lyle. January 25, 1975.

Represented above are the ten winning  
advertisements of The Times Awards for the  
Best Advertisement of a Company's Results  
in 1975.

Out of the many entries we received,  
the advertisements were judged to have  
best conveyed—by way of typography, design  
and copy—information relevant to share-  
holders, professional advisers, prospective  
investors and all concerned in the company's  
well-being.

Over the last twelve months many  
leading companies have chosen to present  
themselves to the business community  
through The Times Business News.

And with good reason.

By advertising in The Times Business  
News they were talking to the prominent  
and successful people from many varied  
professions. They were reaching the  
decision makers; people whose business is  
money, like those in government, the city,

the professions, and in the private and public  
sectors of industry.

And, on a world-wide scale, they were  
reaching the international business community.

So, when you want to talk to the  
influential and successful, think of the Times  
Business News.

We make good business sense.

**THE TIMES  
BUSINESS NEWS**

Mr. Richard H. Selmon, Financial Advertisement Director 01-8371234 Ext. 7696.



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Colgate-Palmolive well ahead for 1976

Colgate-Palmolive has "got off to a good start" in 1976 and expects to meet both sales and earnings targets for the first three months of the year, Mr. David R. Foster, chairman and chief executive of the company, states.

Mr. Foster said the sales picture in the United States was "much healthier" than it has been in the past year or so.

## Overseas

Colgate-Palmolive, he said, is "very confident on the year as a whole".

Colgate is budgeting for a 9-10 per cent rise in sales this year and a 12 per cent gain in profit. First-quarter results so far are in line with these projections, Mr. Foster said.

Mr. Foster said that he expected the merger with Rivalina Foods Inc., announced last month, would be completed sometime in June or July. Rivalina markets rice and specialty food products—AP-Dow Jones.

## Atlantic R'field bid

Atlantic Richfield said yesterday it would offer to buy 6m ordinary shares of Anaconda for cash, at a net price to tendering stockholders of \$27 a share. The shares represent about 27 per cent of Anaconda's outstanding common stock. Under the terms, if fewer than 6m shares of Anaconda are tendered, Atlantic Richfield reserves the right to purchase none, or all of the tendered shares. If 6m or more shares are tendered, Atlantic Richfield will purchase 6m shares and will have the right to purchase some or all of the shares tendered in excess of 6m shares. All purchases of shares by Atlantic Richfield will be subject to the conditions set forth in the offer.

## BASF declines

The pre-tax profit of the BASF AG group declined by 38 per cent to DM830m in 1975, from DM1,339m in 1974, according to preliminary figures released by the company yesterday. Worldwide sales of the group declined by 8.6 per cent to DM20,650m, from DM21,947m. The company said that the worldwide recession in the wake of the oil price increases was responsible for poor capacity utilization, causing earnings to decline at a much sharper rate than the decline in sales. The company said the fourth quarter showed an improvement and added that this trend has continued through the first months of the current year. However, it is impossible to say whether this recovery will continue.

## Burroughs raises capital spending

Burroughs Corporation said capital expenditure in 1976 will be raised to a record \$300m, a rise of 5 per cent on the \$285m in 1975. The company said capital spending will include about \$80m for plant tools, test equipment and marketing offices, up by 20 per cent on the year before. In addition, the company said it plans to spend \$210m on additions to its rental equipment.

## Dow moving ahead

Mr. Carl A. Gersbacher, chairman of Dow Chemical, estimated that Dow Chemical's earnings for the first quarter of this year would be in the range of \$1.50 to \$1.60 a share. Dow Chemical's earnings for the first quarter of 1975 were \$1.36 a share, including 22 cents a share profit on sale of investments in several unconsolidated foreign companies.

## Commodities

## Good US news helps to lift prices of metals

Continued concern about the currency situation in Europe was one factor which caused prices to move further ahead on the London Metal Exchange yesterday.

In copper cash wire bars moved \$5.50 up to \$703 and three months was \$10 up at \$722.75. Brokers said the market was highly encouraging news from the United States—a record rise of 27 per cent in housing starts in February and a large increase in new car sales in early March—as encouraging an upward trend.

The general trend in metals was up under the influence of hedge and other selling prompted by a drop of some \$10 in the Straits price. However, at the close standard cash was \$18.50 up at \$3.586 and three months had gone \$23 ahead to \$3.635. Sales were at a modest level and there was no trade in high grade.

Lead gained \$5.25 for cash and \$5.525 for three months, the market advancing on both speculative buying induced by the currency situation and some optimism that physical demand will pick up. The same considerations sent zinc \$6 ahead for cash and \$5.75 for three months.

The general trend in metals was reflected in silver prices which went ahead by just over 2p per ounce but trading was modest.

In the soft commodities cocoa went sharply ahead and coffee and sugar also showed gains on the day.

**COFFEE**—Arabica futures were firm, March 1976 at \$1.02, May 1976 at \$1.04, July 1976 at \$1.06, September 1976 at \$1.08, November 1976 at \$1.10, January 1977 at \$1.12, March 1977 at \$1.14, May 1977 at \$1.16, July 1977 at \$1.18, September 1977 at \$1.20, November 1977 at \$1.22, January 1978 at \$1.24, March 1978 at \$1.26, May 1978 at \$1.28, July 1978 at \$1.30, September 1978 at \$1.32, November 1978 at \$1.34, January 1979 at \$1.36, March 1979 at \$1.38, May 1979 at \$1.40, July 1979 at \$1.42, September 1979 at \$1.44, November 1979 at \$1.46, January 1980 at \$1.48, March 1980 at \$1.50, May 1980 at \$1.52, July 1980 at \$1.54, September 1980 at \$1.56, November 1980 at \$1.58, January 1981 at \$1.60, March 1981 at \$1.62, May 1981 at \$1.64, July 1981 at \$1.66, September 1981 at \$1.68, November 1981 at \$1.70, January 1982 at \$1.72, March 1982 at \$1.74, May 1982 at \$1.76, July 1982 at \$1.78, September 1982 at \$1.80, November 1982 at \$1.82, January 1983 at 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**University of the West Indies - JAMAICA**  
 Applications are invited for the post of **LECTURE ASSISTANT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY**

The appointee will be required to teach in the B.Sc. General Science and Preference will be given to holders of degrees in agricultural microbiology, plant physiology, ecology or horticulture. The appointee should have a minimum of 3 years' experience in a university or college. Salary is negotiable. For details apply to the Registrar, University of the West Indies, P.O. Box 17, Kingston, Jamaica.

### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

**University of Bristol**  
**"RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN ECONOMICS"**

The Department of Economics invites applications for a post of Research Assistant to help members of the department in their work. Candidates should be graduates with a 2:1 in economics, including statistics or econometrics and should have ability in computing.

The position is tenable from 1st August, 1976, for a period of 12 months with the range £2,270 to £2,570, according to qualifications and experience. Successful particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, University Senate House, Bristol, BS2 8TL, to whom applications should be sent by 12th April. Please enclose references. LR.

### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

**University of Keele**  
**LECTURE CHANCE APPLICATION**

Applications are invited for the post of **LECTURE CHANCE** in the Department of **PHYSICS**. The appointee will be required to teach in the B.Sc. General Science and Preference will be given to holders of degrees in physics or related subjects. The appointee should have a minimum of 3 years' experience in a university or college. Salary is negotiable. For details apply to the Registrar, University of Keele, P.O. Box 17, Keele, Cheshire, ST5 5TA.

**University of Exeter**  
**SCHOOL OF LAW**

Applications are invited for a post as

**LECTURER**

in Law, available from October 1, 1976.

The commencing salary will be within the lower half, £20,123-£22,123 p.a. (plus pension of £2,174-£6,446 p.a.). The post is for a full-time lecturer in the probationary period not actually exceeding 3 years.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Administrative Officer, School of Law, The Law Centre, Northcote House, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4JQ, to whom applications (with copies of relevant curriculum vitae) should be sent by April 1, 1976.

Please quote reference No. 15/0224.

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**IN CHEMISTRY**

from 1st October, 1976, for two years in Law, 1976-1977, and in Chemistry, 1977-1978, at Exeter, at a salary of £10,000 p.a. plus pension. The successful candidates will be expected to teach and supervise laboratory practicals in their own subjects.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Administrative Officer, School of Law, The Law Centre, Northcote House, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4JQ, to whom applications (with copies of relevant curriculum vitae) should be sent by April 1, 1976.

Please quote reference No. 15/0224.

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